THE BEST OF

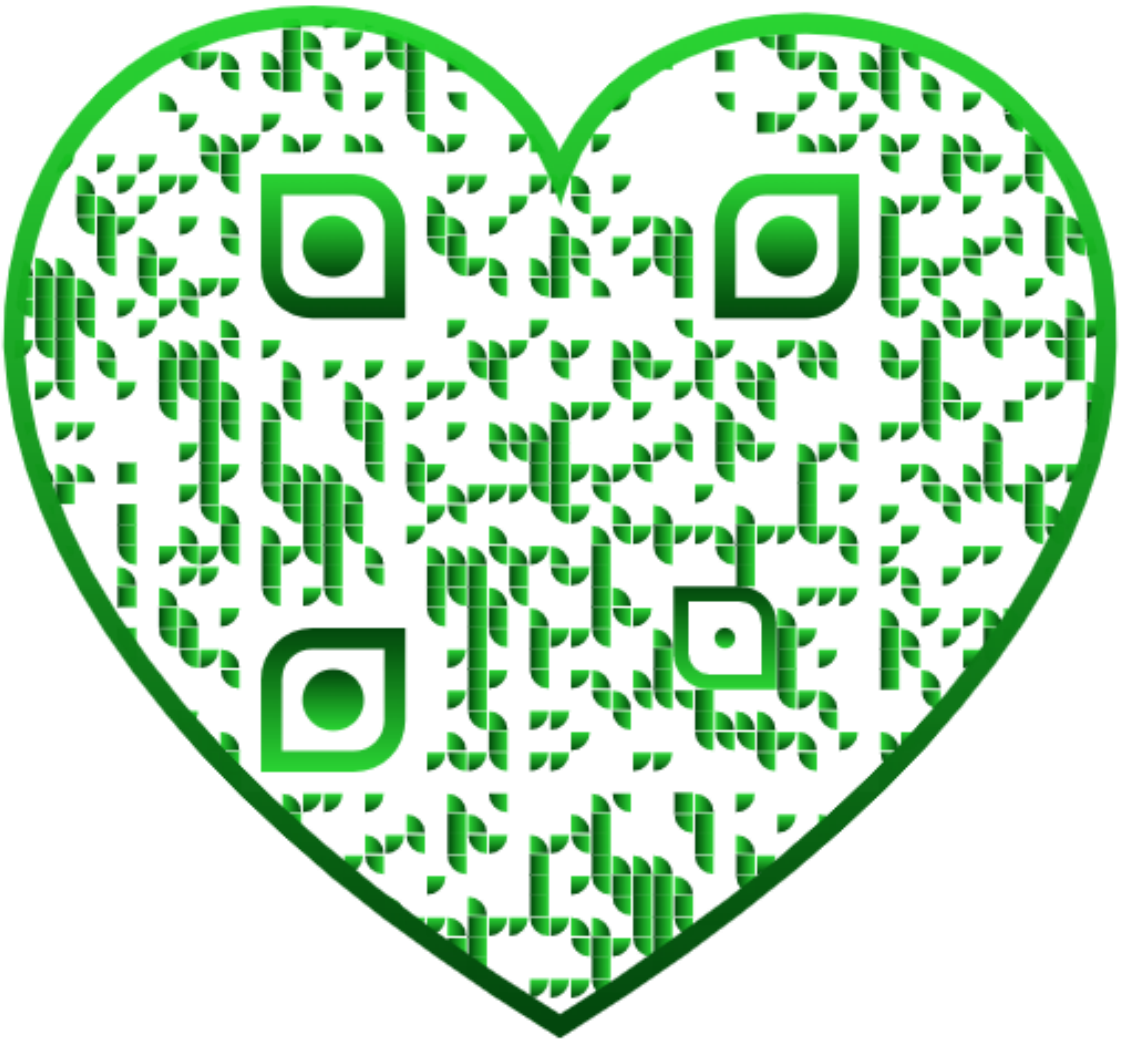
FATE©

MAGAZINE

TRUE REPORTS OF THE STRANGE AND UNKNOWN

UFOS AND CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Selected by the Editors of Fate Magazine



THE BEST OF FATE MAGAZINE
UFOs
and
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

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Introduction

Unidentified Flying Objects [UFOS] did not suddenly spring into being on June 24, 1947, the day pilot Kenneth Arnold saw nine somethings zipping over the Cascades. In fact, even the moniker "flying saucer" was nothing new — precisely sixty-nine and a half years earlier, on January 24, 1878, John Martin saw a "saucer" (his word) flying at "wonderful speed" over his Denison, Texas, farm.

There were, of course, others. UFOs go back a long way. Just how far back is, for want of any better method of making such a judgment, a matter of personal taste. If you believe Erich Von Daniken, and our own tastes compel us to admit we do not, then the damned things have been with *Homo sapiens* since before there were *Homo sapiens.* A trifle less speculatively, we can point to various odd references to "flying shields" and such in ancient Greek and Roman documents, though to these the skeptics can retort reasonably that in those days people didn't understand such natural phenomena as meteors, sundogs, and mirages very well and were likely to view as magical things that to us are merely mundane.

But as the centuries pass and as human beings begin to understand their environment better, reports of strange shapes in the sky (and sometimes on the ground) continue and the likelihood of easy, conventional explanation grows ever less certain. The late Charles Fort, in four memorable books published between 1919 and 1932, collected hundreds of accounts of odd aerial manifestations whose appearances had been noted in scientific journals, newspapers, and logbooks throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. And in 1896 and 1897 thousands of presumably sane and sober Americans swore they had seen "airships" sailing overhead; between November of the former year and May of the latter, the first UFO wave of modern times had heads angled upward, skeptics sneering and hoaxers working overtime. Similar events took place in the British Isles and New Zealand in 1909, in England in 1912 and 1913, and South Africa in 1914. From the beginning, whenever exactly that was, UFOs have been a worldwide phenomenon. The "foo fighters," weird amorphous lights which chased military aircraft during World War II and which no one has ever been able to explain, appeared over central Europe and the South Pacific. The "ghost rockets" of 1946 plagued Scandinavia and sparked unfounded fears

about an imminent Soviet attack.

UFOs in vast numbers (Gallup Poll figures suggest there may be over two million valid sightings in this country alone) seem to be a product of the postwar period, which is to say that, while they may have been around before, they are far more *inescapably* around today. Even if the press had not happened, more or less by accident, to focus on Arnold's sighting (a routine one by present standards) and to direct mass attention to the event, "flying saucers" would have been on everybody's mind in fairly short order simply because it would have been impossible to ignore them.

Arnold's sighting occurred during the early stages of the first nationwide American UFO flap since 1897. There had been some good sightings in the days and weeks before it and there would be many others in the days and weeks after it. There would even be a small number of what Dr. J. Allen Hynek a quarter of a century later would delicately term "close encounters of the third kind": alleged sightings of humanoid UFO occupants. And the sightings—whether they were of puzzling nocturnal lights, daylight discs, cloud cigars, spheres, triangles, flying wings, or little colored men in diving suits—would not stop, no matter how many times over the next sixty-some years authority figures and self-appointed debunkers would predict their imminent demise or demand they cease and desist from further assaults on the sensibilities of establishment metaphysicians.

But all that was in the future when, in 1947, Curtis Fuller and Raymond "Ray" Palmer decided they did not want to move to New York City. Fuller, editor of *Flying*, and Palmer, editor of *Amazing Stories*, were content to remain in Chicago, which their superiors at Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, who were moving to Manhattan, were not. As Fuller and Palmer pondered their prospects, Palmer suggested they start their own magazine to deal with flying saucers and other unexplained phenomena. Palmer, who had published material on "true mysteries" (and some perhaps not so true) in the pages of his science-fiction magazine, was already familiar with the general subject matter, and Fuller was learning fast as, in his travels for *Flying*, he met and talked with pilots who had had their own UFO sightings.

Fuller liked the idea and came up with the title *Fate*, which didn't exactly describe the magazine’s contents but still had a nice provocative ring to it. So the two men put together the first issue of their magazine, which appeared on the stands in the spring of 1948.

The very first article, entitled "I *Did* See the Flying Disks!", was by

Kenneth Arnold himself. In the same issue Arnold would recount his investigation into the enigmatic, still controversial, Maury Island incident.

Fate was off and running. It has just published its 723th issue as we revise this Introduction in 2014 and it's still going strong.

Because *Fate* was the first national magazine to treat UFOs both sympathetically *and* responsibly—it has never hesitated, when the occasion called for it, to identify hogwash by its proper name and over the years it has exposed a number of fraudulent claims—in 1977 the magazine sponsored a conference to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of Arnold's historic experience. Arnold, still living in Idaho, still puzzled by the things he saw that legendary day, was *Fate's* choice for speaker, naturally. The magazine also called on a number of this country's leading ufologists, individuals who contributed measurably to our understanding, such as it is, of the "flying saucer" mystery to discuss what they had learned about Unidentified Flying Objects over the prior three decades.

From June 24 through June 26, 1977, the International UFO Congress met at Chicago's Pick-Congress Hotel to review the past and consider the future. The participants agreed that UFOs are real and still to be explained, but beyond that they held widely differing, often conflicting views. That is only to be expected. The UFO phenomenon is so vast and its manifestations so various that no single explanation seems likely to account for more than a part of the whole, and a subject of such awesome dimensions surely has room for both a Stanton Friedman, who sees UFOs as hardware, and a Jacques Vallee, who sees them as paranormal software. It also has room for any number of opinions somewhere between these two. Such a subject does not have room, however, for foggy-mindedness, rigid dogmatism, or uncontained credulity—qualities all too much in evidence throughout much of the history of the UFO phenomenon. In the pages ahead you will find, we hope, none of these.

In this book, compiled from over 700 issues of *Fate*, you will also not find any final answers or solutions—they still don't yet exist, contrary to what some people might tell you. But you will find sensible, clear-headed perspectives on the greatest riddle of our time, as seen by those who know the most about it. And it's a good bet that when the solution is found, it will be due in no small part to the efforts of the individuals who have contributed to this book.

And now, from the pages of *Fate* magazine, this special overview of six

decades of the UFO mystery...

—Jerome Clark

Curtis G. Fuller

Mary Margaret Fuller

Betty Lou White

Jean Marie Stine

Phyllis Galde

And the Editors of *Fate* 1948 – 2014

PART I.
UFOs, A CONTINUING STORY

Here is a brief outline of the UFO phenomenon, from the first modern encounter with "flying saucers," to 21st century sightings, to issues such as can we ever prove the existence of UFOs, if they are from other worlds, what kind of physical evidence there might be, how to investigate reported incidents, and astronaut Edgar Mitchel's own position on the controversy.

We start with a personal account by Kenneth Arnold, an experienced aircraft search and rescue pilot, whose sighting of strange objects in the sky is considered by scholars and investigators to have ignited the mid-20th century fascination with "flying saucers," shortly after to be dubbed by the military "unidentified flying objects" or UFOs.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN
By Kenneth Arnold
(1948 & 80)

I think our fundamental desire is to come to some common understanding, to offer some reasonable scientific explanations for the very unusual happenings that have taken place during the last thirty years. Perhaps if we review "how-it-all-began" this will help us.

Prior to and during 1947 I was involved in the manufacture and installation of automatic fire-control apparatus. This is a service that I have rendered to remote rural areas of the West for something over forty years now. It was in the course of this business that I was flying out of Chehalis, Washington, on June 24, 1947. As a resident of Boise, Idaho, I had been one of the founders of the Idaho Search and Rescue Pilots Association and I had probably logged, at this time, something like four thousand hours in mountain flying, in mountain search and rescue. My reason for being in the vicinity of Mount Rainier in particularly close quarters was the fact that about a month and a half before a United States Marine Transport, a C-46, had crashed into the south-west side of Mount Rainier. It was presumed that thirty-two marines had perished, and the families of these marines had put up a five-thousand-dollar reward for anyone who could locate the crash and recover the bodies.

Being experienced in this type of work and of course familiar with the terrain and mountain search-and-rescue techniques, I decided, after finishing my work at Chehalis, Washington, that I'd take a hand at seeing if I could locate this downed aircraft. And I might have located it if the crash scene had not still been covered with snow, because on that particular day I did fly directly over the Tacoma Glacier, where the transport was found a month later by forestry personnel.

I took off from Chehalis, Washington, about 2:00 P.M. I don't recall whether the twenty-four-hour clock on my instrument panel and my wristwatch were on daylight time, standard time, or Mountain Time, but according to my instruments I took off at about two. I was planning to spend at least an hour in the search over this high plateau.

I should describe just briefly how carefully and how meticulously you

have to plan a search mission, particularly over country of this type, because always in the vicinity of mountains there can be turbulent air. You have to be very sure you have plenty of gasoline and that your aircraft is in perfect condition because you're flying dangerously close and dangerously slow as you search the slopes of mountain areas.

I was flying a Callair. They're made in Afton, Wyoming, which is fifty miles from a railroad. They've sold out now to Aero Commander, I understand. They are primarily a duster type of aircraft, with a high performance standard, modified to have a thirty-foot wingspan. It's a mountain airplane made especially for high altitudes and short field landings and takeoffs. I've spent some nine thousand flying hours in them, and I'm still here.

June 24, 1947, was a beautiful day. There wasn't a cloud in the sky when I took off and the air was just as smooth as silk. It was a real pleasure to be flying that day. I was going to make this search and then continue on to Yakima. I approached Mount Rainier at about eleven thousand feet up over this plateau that extends even higher than fourteen thousand feet. There I made a turn and of course cut my throttles. I went into an almost stalled type of glide, clearing my engine periodically, but searching the slopes all the way down the mountainside and to the west. I started from the east because the crash had been recorded, I think, by radar or radio, right close to the southwest side of Mount Rainier proper. The altitude of the crash was thought to be in the vicinity of eight thousand feet. As I came out below on this first sweep, I passed over the little community of Mineral, Washington - it's in the pine trees there and I knew pretty much where I was. I made a turn over Mineral and started climbing slowly but steadily, to gain sufficient altitude to go back over the high plateau again for another pass.

As I was making this 180° turn and flying directly toward Mount Rainier at about 9200 feet elevation a tremendous flash appeared in the sky. It lit up my whole aircraft, even the cockpit, and I was startled. I thought I was very close to collision with some aircraft I hadn't seen. Or, I thought, possibly a military plane had dived over the nose of my airplane and the reflection of the afternoon sun against his wing surfaces had caused the flash. All this went through my mind in less than a tenth of a second as I began to look around below me and ahead of me. And then the flash came again. This very bright flash, almost like an arc light, was coming from a group of objects far up to the north of Mount Rainier in the area of Mount Baker, which is almost in a

line with Mount Rainier and Mount Adams. I saw a chain of peculiar aircraft approaching Mount Rainier very rapidly—I think I described their formation at the time as looking like a tail of a Chinese kite. They seemed to fly in an echelon formation. However, in looking at them against the sky and against the snow of Mount Rainier as they approached, I just couldn't discern any tails on them, and I had never seen an aircraft without a tail! These were fairly large-sized, and there were nine of them. I am good at counting things like this because in the course of my lifetime I have flown missions counting antelope, sheep, cattle, and whatnot. I kept looking for their tails.

I was aware that the military are very clever at camouflage and, of course, I assumed these were military craft or at least military missiles, but I was puzzled by their echelon formation, which was flying approximately at 170° from north to south, following closely down the Cascade Range.

However, the first craft was at a higher elevation than the rest of the craft, which of course is not conventional military formation at all, either in this country or Russia or Germany, so I just assumed, I guess, that they were some new type of military missile or jet, possibly under remote control. Actually, they didn't fly like airplanes. The brilliant flashes that came from their surfaces, which I at first assumed were from the sun's reflection, would pulsate, and the craft would flutter; they seemed to fly just as readily on edge as they did on a level. As I mentioned before, they seemed to be linked together in a sort of diagonal chainlike formation, similar to geese—but they were not geese!

I especially noted that they were all individually independent. They were flying on their own but every once in a while one of them would give off a flash like this and gain a little more altitude or deviate just a little bit from the echelon formation. This went on among all the nine craft that I was observing, alternating periodically, but not in a regular rhythm, I should say.

When they approached Mount Rainier's north edge I could see they were to the west of it, which was very good from my standpoint because I was at right angles to them. I determined that whatever they were, I was going to clock their speed with my twenty-four-hour clock, which has a big-sweep second hand. It's on my instrument panel.

As the first one put its nose out of the southern edge of the snowfield of Mount Rainier, my sweep second hand was just approaching, if I remember correctly, about one minute to three. They continued flying between Mount Rainier and Mount Adams over the high, rough terrain named "Goat Ridge,"

which is approximately five miles long. I was approaching Mount Rainier in the vicinity of twenty-three miles away from the craft, and of course I realize my attempt to clock their speed with absolute accuracy was hopeless because I was not only approaching at 9200 feet, at about one hundred miles an hour, but climbing steadily. As the first one actually came to the end of Goat Ridge, the last one seemed to enter above the Ridge, so I made a guess that the whole formation of these peculiar aircraft was approximately five miles long. This is purely an estimate because Goat Ridge is rather irregular; it isn't lying exactly at 170°. The craft seemed to climb a little bit as they were following this 170° heading, and I knew that I was on a level with them because they were on the horizon with me. My altimeter showed a little over 9200 feet, I think, so they were flying at an elevation of about 9200 feet—a little less or a little more, since they sort of undulated as they flew.

As the last of this echelon of strange aircraft passed Mount Adams I looked at my sweep second hand and found they had covered a distance of about fifty miles in one minute and forty-two seconds.

Of course, I knew they were flying very fast. I knew they were faster than our P-51s and any military plane that I knew of. However, I didn't try to figure out how many miles per hour they actually were going. But somehow I had a rather uneasy feeling about it. I judged their diameter to be approximately one hundred feet, and of course I was very puzzled about the fact that they didn't have tails, but I got a good look at their image on the snow. When they gave off this flash they appeared to be completely round. When they turned lengthwise or flat-wise to me, they were very thin and they actually disappeared from sight behind a sharp projection on Mount Rainier in the snowfield. But since I knew approximately where I was, in relation to the mountain, I knew where they had passed. I thought my judgment of the distance and my clocking would be a reasonable estimate of how fast they were going. And at this time I felt sure this strange formation of craft was traveling more than a thousand miles an hour.

Now, as they flew past Goat Ridge the second from the last one seemed to turn its rear end toward me. I guess that's the best expression I can use, and I could see that it wasn't round at all. I got the impression they were rather like tadpoles. They had a little sort of peak at the center of their rear-trailing edges. But I couldn't be positive they were all of the same design as the one that I particularly noticed, or whether that one was a little larger. It seemed darker in color than the others and its wingspan seemed a little bit wider. You

would assume the leader of a group of craft would be the first ship. But this was second from the last. I couldn't see the last ship too well because it was fluttering and jerking very rapidly. From the way they performed I thought if there were human beings in them, they would have been made into hamburger at the first turn because the craft were flying very fast and very erratically, and from the way they changed direction almost instantaneously the centrifugal force must have been terrific.

This is one reason I thought they must be robot-guided missiles.

Anyway, I sort of lost interest in my search mission and decided I ought to go to Yakima and report all this. In my craft, in order to save weight so that I can make high-altitude takeoffs from short airstrips, I don't carry a lot of radio gear. I had just a very small radio with which I could contact nearby control towers. So I couldn't call Seattle tower; I couldn't call Tacoma tower or McChord, or anything. I just kept flying in the direction that the craft had traveled, across the Cascade Range and on to Yakima. I felt positive in my own mind that the forestry observers who are stationed up and down the Cascades couldn't possibly have missed seeing these things because they were large, distinct, and there was quite a formation of them. I later found out they did observe them but had made their reports to their superiors, and if the reports went anywhere from there, I guess it was to the Pentagon. I don't know.

I knew the pilots at Yakima, where Al Baxter was the general manager of Central Aircraft. He was a CAA examiner as well and I described all this to him. I said they didn't have any tails; I told him their approximate size; I mentioned their tremendous speed and the acceleration they had. We'd been friends for a long time so Baxter knew I wouldn't make such a report unless it was true. One of the helicopter-pilots who was present mentioned, "Well, Ken, I think you probably saw some of these guided missiles from Moses Lake." I thought, well, maybe that's what it was. I felt satisfied that that's probably what they were. However, I had never heard of a missile base at Moses Lake, Washington.

I gassed my airplane there and continued on to Pendleton, Oregon. I had worked out mathematically how fast the strange craft were going and every time I reworked it, it came out that they were going over 1700 miles an hour. It was mind-boggling! I even measured the base of the mountains—both Mount Rainier and Mount Adanis—on my aeronautical charts and took the minimum reading of twenty-nine miles and refigured it; they still clocked out

at over 1300 miles an hour.

While I was in Pendleton I kind of felt I ought to tell the FBI because I knew that during the war we were flying aircraft over the pole areas to Russia, and I thought these things could possibly be from Russia. But the FBI office was locked. So then I went over to the newspaper office to talk to the editor of the *Eastern Oregonian,* Noland Skiff. I told him my whole story. I had my charts and everything with me because I had thought I would give the FBI the best description I could. I thought it was my duty to report these things.

Before the evening was over I was besieged. I was asked all types of questions. The newspaper men were so anxious to beat each other to the story that they'd listen to a half dozen words from me, ask me six or seven questions, and then rush off and print the story. Of course, many of these stories were distorted and inaccurate.

The story went out over the wires and pretty soon there were lots of other reports from people who had seen these things. Before the night was over I had long-distance calls from London, England, from religious groups, from people who thought the end of the world was coming!

And all this time I still thought they were some kind of military aircraft, that maybe the military figured this was a good way to break the news?

I was never familiar with the past records of strange things seen in the sky. As a boy I was sent to the Congregational Sunday School and told about Ezekiel, who had seen strange things in the sky, but I had no knowledge of sightings similar to mine.

After three days in Pendleton, getting no sleep, reading all the stories that were being printed about my sighting and learning of lots of other sightings, I was amazed. I felt this was getting completely out of hand. This was my first experience with newspaper people and the things they put into words! They live very interesting lives!

Meantime, I did call my wife. I was very concerned that she know what was going on because she had expected me home two days before I got there. Finally I went out to the airport, cranked up my ship, took off, and went home.

When I got home there was Dave Johnson, aviation editor of the *Idaho Statesman,* saying that Wright Patterson Field wanted a complete description of my sighting, of exactly what took place. The Associated Press, United Press, and other reporters from other newspapers wanted the same thing. But

there wasn't anything new I could tell them.

The real clincher came when on July 4, 1947, Captain E. J. Smith, flying a DC-3 for United Airlines, came through Boise. After he landed somebody yelled at him, "Have you seen any flying saucers?" And he yelled back, "I'll believe them when I see them."

He's a great big guy. He looks almost as big as his airplane. And he's a real nice fellow. Anyhow, believe it or not, when he took off, in nine minutes he saw nine of them over Emmett, Idaho—four in one group, I think it was, and five in another group. He got a beautiful observation. His whole crew saw them. When they left, he said, they left *fast.* He described them as being very similar to what I had seen, except they were quite thin and ruffled on top. As best I could tell, they were circular. Of course, those that I saw were not circular but somehow crescent-shaped.

In the meantime, a great deal of misunderstanding came about because when Bill Bequette of United Press asked me how they flew I said, "Well, they flew erratic, like a saucer if you skip it across water"—thus the name "flying saucers" was born.

Then I was visited by military intelligence from the Fourth Air Force. Captain Davidson and Lieutenant Brown were very courteous. They were mainly interested in all the mail I was receiving. In total, I received something like ten thousand letters from all over the world. So many people came to visit me that for almost three years our home was like Grand Central Station.

A-2 Military Intelligence absolutely denied that the United States government had any such craft as this. Not only that, they said to their knowledge no other power on the face of this earth had any craft of this type. By now I was pretty well convinced that nobody knew what they were. In fact, A-2 Military Intelligence told me flatly that they had personnel and airplane pilots who had seen them.

Most people today don't realize that back in late '47 and '48 all military personnel, in every branch of our armed forces, were given a directive that anyone who saw any of these things and didn't report them only to public relations in the military was subject to a ten-thousand dollar fine and ten years' imprisonment. Well, if you want something to deter people's interest in flying saucers or UFOs, this certainly was it. Ralph Blum, who had access to the military files, made this directive public in the January 1975 issue of *True* magazine. I knew about such directives way back in 1948 and I couldn't

understand why the general public was not given the benefit and support of the hundreds of military witnesses and accounts of these strange flying objects.

Anyhow, my sighting in 1947 changed my life. I have not only been fascinated with the subject, I have spent a great deal of money and time making recordings with other pilots and responsible people who have had similar sightings. And I have noticed that, accompanying these flying-saucer or UFO sightings, there are other associated phenomena. All sorts of strange things occur. People somehow are displaced from where they were—they find themselves in different areas of the country, not knowing how they got there.

I think military intelligence was more interested in the people who came to visit me than in my sighting. Many of these people were very sympathetic with my particular position because I had stuck my neck out. I was stuck with my report. I couldn't hide anyplace even if I didn't like the way some of the press treated me. So these people came to me and told me their stories because they knew I would listen. And I recorded many of these stories. And the thing becomes more and more complex.

In the more than thirty years that have passed I haven't tried to convince anybody of UFOs or flying saucers. In fact, I always say, "When you see one yourself, then you'll know." Of course, I would like to see substantial physical, nuts-and-bolts proof that we are not seeing illusions, that we are not having psychic experiences. These things are something that is real, something that is physical, something that, if it dropped on your toe, you'd yell.

I remember one particular case that was related to me. It happened to a young family in Tacoma, Washington. Their twelve-year-old boy turned up missing, and after a very extensive search they found him in Lusk, Wyoming. They didn't have relatives there and the boy, when he was found, didn't know how he got there. It was a completely baffling case.

I have heard other stories of this type; however, there are so many varieties of the phenomenon that no one knows what is taking place.

An Ellen Jonerson over in Canby, Oregon, a University of Oregon graduate and a very intelligent person, actually saw a little man. She was stunned to see this little man walk across their breezeway and, standing straight up, pass underneath the running board of a '37 Dodge car. He couldn't have been more than nine inches tall and he had features like a man.

He wasn't threatening. He was very dark-skinned; he had on a type of little romper and a sort of plaid shirt. She got a good look at him and when I asked her if she didn't feel like she'd like to get closer to him, she said, "I think I should have run over and grabbed the little fellow." But he walked out into the grass and she never saw him again.

Some of my recordings are with people who have seen flying men. Now, this kind of shakes me up.

There are cases, of course, in the records of Charles Fort of persons in Louisville, Kentucky, I think about one hundred years ago, who saw a man who had machinery on his back and who went flying through the air all over town—without an airplane, without wings or anything! I ran into a lady up here in Washington, Mrs. Viola Johnson, who saw three men in flying suits, and she described them beautifully. They flew a little higher than the telephone wires, and other people saw them, too. I think a lot of other people have experiences like this but think it over and decide maybe they'd better not say anything because newspaper people can do some awful things to people who are perfectly sincere and perfectly honest.

Another lady, a Mrs. Zaikowski, saw a flying man up in Chehalis, Washington. He had long silver wings and flew about two hundred feet over her barn. A lot of small schoolchildren also saw the flying man and asked to go into her backyard to get a better look at him. He just flew slowly off down the valley and they never saw him again.

Responsible people report these experiences and we have to believe them. But some of these experiences happen to people we wouldn't think of as very responsible and they probably are just as authentic. The whole thing is sort of senseless; it doesn't seem to have rhyme or reason. But these things keep happening to lots of people, all over the world.

A Boeing test pilot I know told this story: He was flying one of the test planes for Boeing from Seattle to Mexico City, then turning around and flying back to Seattle, all before noon. That's how fast the plane was—it flew something over 1500 miles an hour, twice the speed of sound, and he said that while he was flying over California, I think it was, at 67,000 feet, he observed a group of saucers or UFOs. They were all different colors; he said some of them were red, some of them were yellow, some were dense and some were opaque, but one large black one left the group and flew right off his wing tip, about ten feet from his canopy. He said it looked like a giant rayfish with no tail. He said it had a glow around the edge of its wings and

was bigger than his ship. He could see the wing ripple the way a ray's wing ripples in the ocean. This black "thing"—he thought it was alive—stayed with him for five or six minutes and then took off. It left him as if he were standing still! He couldn't believe it—his indicators said he was doing over 1500 miles an hour and it just left!

This is the same sort of impression I got after seeing these same things again in 1952. Two of them flew under me at Mount Lassen: I got a movie of these, and one was just as solid as a Chevrolet car. But you could see the pine trees right through the other one that was following it. I too got the feeling that here was something that was alive, rather than that they were machines. By this I mean that if you see a horse walking down the street and you also see a car on the street you can say, from a chemical standpoint, that they're both made up of atoms and molecules and so on, but one is an entity in itself and the other is not. This makes me think that whether this type of craft is actually alive or whether it is a robot operated by some kind of intelligence, it does not have the ability to change its density without losing its *identity.*

When you get to compiling these cases there seems to be a pattern to it all. What the pattern means I don't think anybody knows. I'm sure the military doesn't.

My experience with Samuel Eaton Thompson is too long to go into here. But I've got a tape recording that covers most of what he had to say during the day and a half I spent with him. Samuel Eaton Thompson is a man from Centralia, Washington, who professed to have been aboard a ship from Venus. His experience was on March 26, 27, and 28, 1950 (three days) and the reason I interviewed this man was that as I was flying to Seattle in late March, 1950, Toledo radio tower called me—they knew the number of my ship—and told me that the military had been swarming all over the place, that a very strange thing had happened and they thought I'd like to check it out. It was a physical happening and had occurred in the middle of the night. One of these globe-shaped things had come over Centralia and actually landed in a vacant lot at 3:00 A.M. Samuel Eaton Thompson became acquainted with these space people and spent some time in their ship with them (approximately three days).

It's a very unusual story—the man is very sincere. He said he met these people from Venus and he told me all about them and described what their craft looked like. He lived on their craft for a time, he said. A lot of what he said sounded very sound and sensible. He was not a religious fanatic or

anything. I took him out to dinner and my wife and family met him. I think maybe his story is real; I don't think he could imagine a ham sandwich unless you shoved it in his face. He told me just what happened to him and that's all I know about it.

I can only vouch for the things that I have seen and have happened to me.

The first modern encounter with Unidentified Flying Objects may have begun in 1947, but as British Ufologist reports, sightings and encounters were still going strong more than fifty years on at the dawn of our current century.

UFOs AND THE NEW MILLENNIUMN
By Nicholas Redfern
(2005)

Case 1: El Yunque Rain Forest, Puerto Rico, March 2000: The Flying Triangle

Rosario is a middle-aged lady living in the old San Juan area of Puerto Rico. She earns her living in the island's food industry. In March 2000, she was working in a grove near the foot of the El Yunque rainforest. As she picked plantains (a type of fruit similar to a banana) her attention was drawn to a deep, resonating hum that seemed to come from directly above her.

Looking up, Rosario was startled to see a black, triangular-shaped object that was hovering overhead at a height estimated to be around 90 to 120 feet. In an interview I conducted with her in the summer of 2004, Rosario said the object was about 25 to 35 feet in length and had a glossy, extremely reflective surface.

Surprise and amazement turned to horror and shock, however, when a pencil-thin beam of light shot out of the bottom of the object. The light beam fanned out and enveloped Rosario in a pink glow.

For what seemed like an eternity (it was almost certainly only about 40 seconds), Rosario was rooted to the spot while her mind was flooded with images of widespread nuclear destruction and environmental collapse in the Earth's near future. The final image was that of a large, bald head with huge, black eyes that closely resembled the face on the cover of Whitley Strieber's 1987 book *Communion.*

Suddenly, the light retracted and the flying triangle vanished upwards and headed slowly towards the rain forest. Interestingly, in the wake of the encounter, Rosario developed an overwhelming interest in environmental issues, and quite literally overnight—after a lifetime of eating meat—became a staunch advocate of vegetarianism.

Case 2: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, July 2000: Bodies in the Morgue

In November 2004, I spoke at the UFO Crash Retrieval Conference in Henderson, Nevada. While at the conference I met with a man named Kevin,

whose father had worked at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, from 2000 to 2002, and who claimed knowledge of classified files on a number of alien autopsies undertaken at the base in mid-2000.

I had heard numerous, secondhand stories very similar to this many times before; but Kevin was able to put me in contact with his father, who revealed the facts—albeit somewhat reluctantly.

Gary is now in his early 60s. He spent the bulk of his Air Force career working in the fields of counterintelligence and counterespionage and has self-published several scholarly papers on the use of disinformation during the Cold War era.

Now retired, Gary claims that in 2000 he was engaged in an operation that involved the careful dissemination of spurious data on crashed UFOs (including false witness testimony and fabricated documents) to a number of U.S.-based UFO researchers. The stories—stated Gary—were totally bogus and focused upon allegations that alien bodies were held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The operation, he added, was designed to reinforce the work of renowned crashed-UFO researcher Leonard Stringfield.

When I asked Gary why the Air Force would deliberately spread false crashed-UFO accounts, he chuckled and alluded to the possibility that some perceived crashed-UFO rumors (particularly in the 1940s and 1950s) might in reality have had their origins in the crash and retrieval of experimental aircraft prototypes that "the Air Force wants you guys kept away from."

He added, enigmatically: "That doesn't mean there have never been any real crashed UFOs—or maybe it does."

The curious legend of the little grey men of Wright-Patterson seems set to continue.

Case 3: Houston, Texas, May 2001: Visitor in Black

It was after driving home from Austin to Houston late one night in 2001 that Paul Earl Green had a strange encounter with one of the notorious Men in Black.

"I seen [sic] this contraption like a flying bed over the highway," stated Green in a 2004 interview. "I say that because it was kind of rectangle [sic] with four poles...a pole coming down from each corner. The thing was about 50 feet [in length] and maybe 15 [feet] wide. The poles I would say were about five feet each long and it was, I think a purple color. I guess it was only about 100 feet over the highway and I slowed real slow to watch."

According to Green, he watched the object traverse the highway in a strange, jerky fashion that reminded him of a small boat being tossed on the water. He returned home around 2:00 a.m. Green was awakened the next day by a loud knock on the door.

"There was this guy, real odd," says Green. "He was real small—about five-foot-two. Black suit and tie and even a black hat—like you never see now. Says he's doing a survey to see if people are having their local newspapers delivered on time each day. I tell him I don't get a newspaper delivered and he says: 'So, you wouldn't have seen last night's UFO reports mentioned then?'

"I just stare at him and I'm actually stuck what to say. But he asks again about the UFOs, and I still just stare. Then he just gives me this weird smile which was really creepy and he points to the sky and walks off! I stood wondering what it's all about—and still am!"

The MIBs, it seems, are still watching us....

Case 4: New York, September 2001: Travelers in Space or Time?

The idea that the UFO puzzle might have its origins not in outer space but in the far future is not a new one. A number of authors have explored the possibility that perhaps our aliens may be our future offspring who have mastered the art of time-travel and who are now visiting us for reasons best known to themselves.

Absurd? Maybe. But maybe not.

What was certainly one of the strangest UFO accounts ever related to me was divulged at the annual conference of the Mutual UFO Network in Colorado in 2004. "Sarah" is a 35-year old mother of two and holds a major position with one of the world's best known publishers of superhero-based comic books.

Since the age of five, Sarah asserts that she has received visitations from beings that fit the description of the creatures that—in UFO lore—have come to be known as the Greys. Diminutive, with large, bald heads, huge black eyes, and small (and often emaciated) bodies, the Greys usually present themselves as visitors from some far-off world engaged in a program that somehow seems to be linked with human reproduction, the collection and sampling of our DNA, and perhaps even some form of intergalactic cross-breeding.

Sarah asserts that on the night of September 23, 2001, she was told a

different story by her mysterious abductors. The Greys, she states, originate not in outer space but on earth, from a point infinitely far in the future, after our world has been ravaged by chemical, biological, and nuclear destruction as well as environmental collapse. The future of the human species hangs precariously in the balance and is dependent on the Greys' abductions of present-day humankind "to improve future survivors."

Could it be true? Perhaps—ironically—only time will tell.

Case 5: Sedona, Arizona, January 2002: We Have Contact

During the 1950s, it was not uncommon for people to claim contact with benign, humanlike aliens who wished us to disarm our nuclear arsenals and live in harmony with each other. Among the better known contactees were George Adamski and George Van Tassel.

Today, many UFO researchers have little time for the contactees and their tales of encounters with characters that sound like something out of a 1950s sci-fi flick. When the alleged visitors sport names like "Numa of Uni" and "Rondolla of the Fourth Density," and claim to originate on Venus or Saturn, this is understandable. For most, the age of the contactee is gone. But not for all.

In January 2002, Peggy Ballantine felt compelled to drive from her West Coast home to Sedona, Arizona. She went with the strong feeling that she was bound for a rendezvous with the unknown that was to be of profound importance.

Sedona is a strange place with deep spiritual connections, and it has been the site of frequent UFO activity. Drawn to one particular area in Sedona late at night, Ballantine had an encounter with a tall, longhaired, human-looking being who referred to himself as Karo. Karo expressed displeasure about humankind's treatment of the earth and advised Ballantine that she was part of a program that would be initiated in the near future to "rid the world of its ills."

Ballantine states that Karo departed the area in a classic flying saucer-style craft that wobbled curiously as it rose slowly into Sedona's night sky. It would be very easy to dismiss a strange tale like this—yet Ballantine displays no signs of eccentricity and holds a position of responsibility with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Perhaps truth really is stranger than fiction.

Case 6: Colorado, May 2002: The Mutilation Mystery

As an investigator of UFO mysteries, I receive a lot of reports that must be treated with great caution. Such was the case with an incident that reportedly occurred on farmland in southern Colorado in May 2002.

The source of the account is a rancher who had been referred to me by a friend of his who had read my book *Strange Secrets.* The book contained a chapter on the FBI's investigation of the cattle mutilation puzzle and made brief allusions to usually unsubstantiated accounts of human mutilations undertaken by the intelligences behind the UFO controversy.

The rancher informed me that in May 2002 the body of a man had been found on the property of a neighboring rancher that bore all the marks of "a mutilation of a man." Not only that, "The Air Force came in and cleaned it up," he added.

My informant further stated that his neighbor guardedly advised him that the body looked as if it had been dropped from a great height. The eyes, lower jawbone, and skin on both arms were all missing from the man's naked body, and there was a wide cut on his stomach that bore all the hallmarks of surgical precision.

A quick call to the local sheriff led to an immediate visit by a team from a nearby USAF base that secured the area and issued dire warnings to the rancher if he ever divulged details of what had occurred.

A no-nonsense individual, the rancher refused to remain silent and informed his friend, who duly informed me of the—admittedly scant—facts. The original source of the account also alludes to knowledge of bizarre UFO activity in the immediate vicinity and in the same time period. My investigations continue.

Case 7: Beaufays, Belgium, February 2003: The Triangles Return

In 1990 there occurred in the skies over Belgium a wave of encounters with one particular type of UFO that has become known as the Flying Triangle.

The craft are described as being very large in size and black in color, and displaying a single light at each corner. Some researchers believe them to be alien craft and others suspect the objects are a form of next-generation stealth aircraft.

Whatever their origin, in February 2003, one of the triangles made a return visit to Belgium. In this case, the witness was a serving policeman who had a

very close encounter with one of the mysterious vehicles.

Marc has not only the credibility of his position, but a first-class memory and a clear, rational mind. In a telephone conversation with me in November 2004, he related how he was on patrol in the Beaufays region of the country late at night when his vehicle was bathed in a bright, white light. So bright and blinding was the light that Marc was forced to bring his patrol car to an immediate and screeching halt.

He jumped out of the vehicle and was shocked to see that the illumination was coming from a gigantic, triangular-shaped object hovering in the night sky. Staring at it was impossible after a few seconds because of the sheer brightness of the light, but he was able to determine its size—somewhere in the region of a Boeing 747 jumbo jet.

In an instant the object accelerated to a phenomenal speed and was gone, leaving a shaken patrolman wondering whether or not to file an official report. (He ultimately chose not to.)

Notably, as with the similar account related by Rosario in Puerto Rico from 2000, Marc found himself taking a keen interest in environmental issues after the incident.

Case 8: Avebury, England, December 2003: Origin of the Circles?

The circle of standing stones at Avebury, England, is certainly the most significant prehistoric earthwork in Europe. Estimates suggest that 400 standing stones originally formed Avebury's avenues, with the heaviest weighing 65 tons. The original layout was of an outer circle that consisted of 98 stones; while within this circle two more circles were constructed and used for ritualistic purposes.

According to Martin Webster of Scotland, in late 2003 he and his wife visited the area and had a bizarre experience: "We got to Avebury about lunchtime. It was bitterly cold but we decided it was a good time to stroll around. We had been walking a couple of minutes when we saw what looked like a bright piece of silver foil, about sixty yards from us.

"It seemed to be hexagonal shaped and propelled under its own power. It was about a foot wide and swooped down and up and circled the stones. We just stood and watched. It seemed to be almost lit.

"I can best describe it as if it had been a bright, silver bird in its movements but it was something completely different. It came at us very quickly at head height, and there was a bright flash similar to looking into a

light bulb and then looking away—with the image still in your vision—and the thing had gone."

That night both Webster and his wife experienced a strange dream, in which they saw "this same hexagonal thing hovering over a field and then with a similar flash, a crop circle appearing on the ground. Not one of these big patterns you see, but just a circle. We think that some energy from the flying objects makes the circles and that it ties in with the energy of the stone circles."

Case 9: Cannock Chase, England, April 2004: Bigfoot and UFOs

At 11:15 p.m. one night in April 2004, Alec Williams was driving through the Cannock Chase—a British forest in the central part of the country that has been an integral feature of the landscape for centuries.

It was close to a landmark on the Chase known as Castle Ring that Williams had a startling encounter with a distinctly strange beast. Little is known about the people that built Castle Ring or its purpose, except that its creators were in residence at the time of the Roman invasion of the country and remained there until A.D. 50.

According to Williams, near to Castle Ring he witnessed a large, hair-covered creature cross the road into the trees: "It was seven feet tall, with short, shiny, dark hair, and had eyes that glowed bright red."

Williams stated that as the creature entered the trees, he heard a howling noise and witnessed both a bright flash coming from the woods and a large ball of light soaring into the night sky. "The light seemed structured," he added.

The idea that a race of unknown hominids could exist in stealth within the relatively small confines of the British Isles is absurd. Yet people see such things, and the Cannock Chase has a rich history of encounters. Most notable of all are the references to the self-illuminating, glowing red eyes of the beast and the fact that it vanished in a flash of light; two characteristics that are very common in many reports of this nature from Britain. If Britain does have its very own man-beast, then—assert many researchers—the creature probably falls more into the realm of the paranormal than it does that of the physical.

As for the "structured," UFO-like ball of light, its origin and relationship to the beast remains a mystery.

Case 10: Wiltshire, England, November 2004: Crop Circle Revelations

Although this feature ostensibly deals with UFOs and UFO-related events generated in the first few years of the new millennium, I am making one exception. This last case in question is a highly important one and the details did not surface until November 2004, so, arguably, it does have relevancy.

Alec Randall wrote to inform me that on an August morning in 1955 he and his then-girlfriend Sheila were walking along a road that runs adjacent to one of the many cornfields that dominate the area of Devizes, Wiltshire, England, when they heard a curious humming noise.

Realizing that the sound was coming from a nearby field, they stopped and looked to their immediate left. To their surprise and amazement, only about 15 feet into the field they could see a clearly defined, square-shaped "distortion of the air, like a thick haze of heat" above the corn and at a height of about 20 feet.

Then, suddenly, there was a loud "cracking noise like an electric shock noise—an electrical bang." The mysterious haze was gone, but beneath it in the field was a small circle that was easily recognizable from their close proximity. The young couple climbed a small wooden fence and walked carefully over to the field.

Randall stated that the circle was only about eight feet in diameter, but that it was a perfect circle and the corn was laid down in a "beautiful swirl but with a smell of burning metal in the air which lasted for a few minutes or until we got used to it." Randall added: "We stayed there for about 20 minutes, I suppose, then went home."

"I've followed the circle things since the '80s and because of my sighting," Randall explained. "I hope this interests you."

It certainly does, Alec.

One of the biggest questions about UFOs is, whatever phenomenon they represent, will science, or more properly the scientific method, ever be able to tell us, once and for all, what UFOs are? Professor Frank B. Salisbury, head of the Utah State University department of Plant science at the time he wrote the following piece, attempts to give us an honest, and inclusive, answer.

CAN SCIENCE SOLVE THE UFO MYSTERY?

By Frank B. Salisbury, Ph.D.

(1980)

Science works by constructing hypotheses that are used upon objective, verifiable data and then by testing these hypotheses. However, it is a problem to obtain objective, verifiable data in relation to UFOs. The data are mostly witness accounts, which by their very nature are not objective. How then can the data be verified? How can we do what scientists do, namely, take the objects into the laboratory or go back into the field and duplicate the observations?

There are tangible data, but they are always subject to subjective interpretation. In dealing with photographs we need to be aware that the *possibility* of fraud exists in virtually every case. The movie *Star Wars* showed us dozens of beautiful UFO photographs! It takes money to produce really beautiful, fraudulent UFO pictures but any amateur can produce run-of-the-mill, fraudulent UFO photographs. It is the same with holes or marks on the ground, or with physical effects on a witness. How can we know what made them? Electromagnetic effects are essentially similar. The witness tells you that his car stopped or his lights went off or his radio buzzed and all you have is the witness's word.

One approach is to treat the body of witness reports and the investigative results as the problem to be studied. One can establish and test hypotheses about the reports and extract objective, verifiable data from conglomerate reports. This is objective because anybody can extract the same data. This was the concept behind Aime Michel's map studies in which he looked for and found alignments of sightings. But the question immediately arises: What do the alignments mean? What are the chances that they could occur by chance? So we are soon back to a subjective interpretation anyway. David Saunders, Jacques Vallee, and others have studied UFOs with computers. The first step is to compile a computer catalog of sightings—the *Ufocat* now has something like eighty thousand entries, representing perhaps fifty thousand different sightings. Then you can ask the computer catalog what time of the day are UFOs most likely to be seen. What day of the week? What part of the

country? What color are they? How fast do they go? I think this is a good approach.

Let's consider two rather oversimplified hypotheses. One hypothesis is that the reports are fraudulent; that is, the witnesses are deliberately telling lies. The contrary hypothesis is that the reports represent the truth as the witnesses understand it; that is, the witnesses are not telling deliberate lies. Obviously, the reports include both of these kinds of material, and the problem becomes how to distinguish and segregate the two. It may be impossible to do so in a totally objective and satisfying way, but human history has provided experiences upon which we can base some approaches.

Consider four ideas along these lines:

First: *Two or more witnesses are better than one, although a single witness is not without value.* If many witnesses are involved in a fraud it is likely that at least one will eventually expose the fraud. Furthermore, one witness may observe details missed by another, so more data may be obtained. Multiple-witness cases are best.

Second: *It is valid to seek motives for lying or for perpetrating a hoax.* Will the witness expect to profit or to suffer by telling his or her story? One motive is always present: Many people apparently get a real ego boost from having successfully perpetrated a hoax. Thus it is always possible that a hoax has been perpetrated because the psychological reward for having gotten away with it can be a sufficient motive. Therefore, a motive is suggestive but far from conclusive unless the witness admits, or it can be demonstrated, that the motive actually led to the perpetration of the hoax.

Third: *"Gut feelings" about a witness are not without value, although they must be automatically suspect.* They have value because the mind is capable of integrating many facts and impressions to arrive at conclusions in a way that so far cannot be duplicated by any mechanical process. The origin of your "gut feeling" is in the sum total of your experience applied to the problem under question; this is the subtle thing we call intuition. It is the way we usually approach research anyway.

On the other hand, the mind may not possess all the pertinent facts; the mind may unduly emphasize or trust some facts at the expense of others; and the mind may make mistakes in logic. So we have to suspect our "gut feelings," but we must also realize that they have their uses. If we can outline a course of logical thought and the data that support it based upon our feelings, then we have made progress.

Fourth: *Certain physiological manifestations have been statistically associated with lying.* That is, lie detectors (polygraphs), stress-analysis machines, and the like sometimes can be used to investigate whether a witness is telling the truth or not. I think truth serum has not been used much in UFO investigations for several obvious reasons, but it might have a role. Hypnosis and perhaps other techniques also can be used, but the investigator must know the limitations of these approaches.

It is possible for a few persons to lie without exhibiting stress, and this is another reason why multiple witnesses are valuable. At the same time, it is possible to exhibit stress (as when recalling a traumatic experience) without lying. So a positive response on a polygraph can be considered as evidence that a witness is lying or it can be considered evidence that he is not lying.

Travis Walton's experience illustrates lying.

He took a lie-detector test within several hours after he reappeared from his claimed UFO abduction near Heber, Arizona. You can say that he failed the test miserably because he showed so much stress. Or you can say the stress proves he had a truly traumatic experience. Some months later he took another test that didn't show the stress that would be indicative of lying.

It is certainly possible to fantasize under hypnosis. Remember the Bridey Murphy case of 1956? To prove reincarnation, a woman in Colorado was regressed hypnotically into an earlier life in Ireland. A reporter (William Barker) went to Ireland to verify the facts brought out under hypnosis. But journalists from the *Chicago American* investigated the neighborhood in Chicago where the woman grew up. They found many details relating to the stories she told under hypnosis. A neighbor's maiden name was Bridie Murphy, for example, and another neighbor had taught her to dance an Irish jig.

The recent study at Long Beach by A. H. Lawson and his co-workers indicates that people are indeed suggestible under hypnosis. When the hypnotist, having hypnotized you, says "Tell me your UFO story," you will tell a story whether you ever had an experience or not. This doesn't mean that we should eliminate hypnotic methods from UFO investigation. We just have to learn their limitations. Additional experiments need to be done.

Dr. James Harder suggests having a subject watch a movie, then two years later having him recall under hypnosis what happened in the movie. The investigator might introduce some suggestions to see how much could be distorted. The following suggestion might help: "You will only be able to tell

me things that really happened; you will not be able to fantasize." Dr. Harder says he uses this suggestion in his hypnotic studies.

Expense is a bit of a problem. You need someone to foot the bills for polygraph tests and the like. An amateur investigator can't afford many of these techniques.

Speaking of lying, are the contactees liars? Certainly they tell us many things that are not true. Adamski told us that the other side of the moon was covered with rolling hills, trees, and little towns. As it turns out, it isn't and we all knew it wouldn't be anyway. But the untruths of contactees like Adamski could be due to the fact that they are the dupes of whatever intelligence may be controlling the UFO phenomenon. This also needs to be thought about and investigated.

How much faith can we put in what witnesses tell us?

Assuming we've weeded out the reports that are obviously fraudulent, what do we do with the reports that appear to be based on truths? What do these reports really represent? We can establish hypotheses about what the reports mean, and then we can try to test the hypotheses by comparing them further with the reports.

The first hypothesis is the one most UFO researchers and certainly all skeptics adopt: that the witness has misinterpreted some conventional phenomenon or object. There are many possible examples. The UFO may be the planet Venus or any other star or planet that appears to change color and move. Witnesses don't realize that all the stars move because the earth is turning, and when they see that a given celestial object changes position over the period of an hour they think they are watching a UFO. Although it really appears only as a point of light, a star or planet may seem to change shape, especially when seen through binoculars that aren't properly in focus.

Atmospheric phenomena include sun dogs, mirages and electrical phenomena such as ball lightning and corona discharge. Animal- or mineral-derived UFOs include birds, insects, airborne debris, meteors or fireballs, and the like.

An interesting story about a UFO that became an IFO involves two officers in Korea who were watching a plane flying overhead. As they watched, they saw a bright object begin to descend, apparently from the plane. They watched until it landed right at their feet. It was a little flake of paint! It couldn't have been from that airplane because it would have taken much longer to descend.

Often coincidence interacts with some natural event to lead a witness to think he is seeing something strange or extraterrestrial.

UFOs often are man-made objects such as weather or other balloons, rockets, aircraft, or reflections from aircraft, satellites, radio towers, taillights, headlights, and so on. In Logan, where I live, we are surrounded by mountains. At night people will call to tell me they are watching a light on the mountain where there shouldn't be any light because there is no road. But with a four-wheel-drive vehicle you can go places where there aren't roads, and that's what these lights often turn out to be. I've never seen one take off! I'd get excited if it would do something other than just be a light on the mountain!

No doubt some secret government developments have been reported as UFOs. However, the concept that UFOs (that are not fraudulent or misinterpretations) are being produced by some government is unacceptable to me simply because they go so far back into history, before governments were capable of producing such things.

Last but not least, a misinterpreted conventional phenomenon or object may be a deliberate hoax. Hot air gas balloons and other fake UFOs have fooled many people.

If you misinterpret some natural phenomenon this implies psychological cooperation, on your part. Often the autokinetic effect plays a role.

The best UFO I've seen was in Tibingen, Germany. We were on sabbatical. My children came running into the bedroom to say, "Dad, we're watching this UFO out over Osterberg." I grabbed my binoculars and my wife followed me into the children's bedroom. My three boys, my wife, and I all saw the same phenomenon. A multiple-witness account! We saw a brilliant light in the east move laterally and, to a lesser extent, up and down. It came toward us rapidly and went away from us rapidly. These features should remove it from the category of natural phenomenon, but in less than a minute I backed up against the bedroom doorjambs and sighted the UFO against the window frame. When I did that it stopped moving and I recognized Venus!

We had experienced the autokinetic effect, in which if you stare at a single point of light in a totally dark room with no reference points, the light will appear to move around. Nobody knows exactly why this is so, but it is a psychological effect that is easily repeatable. We had concentrated so intently on Venus that we mentally blocked out all reference points, although many

were readily available to us. When I consciously forced myself to consider a reference point the effect stopped. Venus apparently came toward us and went away from us because of a thin layer of clouds that were changing in intensity. When it got dim it appeared to retreat; when it got bright it appeared to come close.

Clearly, psychology plays a role in every UFO sighting. This is one of those outer shells that Jacques Vallee talks about—there is what actually happens and there is what the witness perceives as happening. Size and distance estimates are critical; I've had witnesses tell me that Venus was about a mile away and perhaps twenty feet in diameter!

I have read that UFOs are afterimages. When you look at a bright light for a while and then look away, you see the afterimage. This is due to faded pigment on the retina of your eye. But I've never known an afterimage to be the explanation for a UFO. We all see afterimages all of the time, and we disregard them at the subconscious level unless we consciously make ourselves aware of them.

The phenomenon of attention-perception is always important. We see what we want or expect to see. When I was a teenage scout leader in Mill Creek Canyon many years ago, several of us were walking down the road in the middle of the night and we saw a bear one hundred yards or more ahead of us. We were frightened. We didn't know what to do, whether to go back or to try to pass the bear. We kept going, nonetheless, and the "bear" turned out to be a large post! Under the circumstances we were predisposed to see a bear because we had been talking about bears earlier. And this is what happened to my children in Tubingen. I had just become interested in UFOs and I had been telling my wife about UFOs while my three boys sat in the back seat of the car taking it all in.

The second hypothesis is that the witness has experienced some purely psychological phenomenon. We've seen that psychology always plays a role in UFO observations, but is a psychological aberration ever the total explanation without some physical reality such as an afterimage or the autokinetic effect to help generate the illusion? In other words, are some UFOs genuine visions or hallucinations or vivid dreams?

I think the answer is probably yes, in some cases.

A woman called from Salt Lake City to tell me of an abduction experience she thought she had had when she was eleven years old. I interviewed her under hypnosis. She remembered entering the UFO, seeing the instrument

panels and so on, but when I tried to get her to tell me what time of day it was, she was unable to look into her memory, even under hypnosis, to see if it was light or dark. Nor could she tell what time of year it was. After taking her through the experience I asked what had happened next. Well, she was entering the kitchen of her home and everybody was having breakfast. It is impossible to prove these things one way or the other, but to me that was a good indication that probably she had had an extremely vivid dream just before she woke up and went to breakfast.

I think a psychological explanation is unsatisfactory when multiple witnesses are involved, although nobody knows much about mass hallucinations. When radar and photographs are involved, I think psychology cannot be the answer.

If multiple witnesses all have the same hallucination, then we can suspect that some extra-human or extraterrestrial intelligence is generating the illusion. That is a fascinating idea. Remember the Pascagoula case, where the two fishermen saw a brilliant UFO and were taken inside? There was a road not far away with cars traveling on it and there was a drawbridge booth with an operator sitting in it, facing in the right direction; and apparently none of them saw the UFO. I don't doubt that Hickson and Parker had an extremely moving experience, but it seems conceivable that they were experiencing some kind of "group hallucination." Such a thing is almost as mysterious as a UFO from Zeta Reticuli!

That leaves two hypotheses. One: The witness has actually seen (not just imagined) the product of an extraterrestrial intelligence, perhaps an extraterrestrial machine or something produced by the extraterrestrial machine such as a three-dimensional holograph. Two: The witness has seen the product of an extra-human but nonetheless earthly kind of intelligence. John Keel has talked about his "elementals" from another dimension; angels or devils might be considered; time travelers from the past or future are other possibilities.

There certainly is evidence for a physical, tangible reality but there are many troubling aspects—interactions with the witnesses, displays, etc. I became most disturbed, perhaps, when I encountered the elements of partially fulfilled prophecies, prophecies made through contactees which seemed to work out in some ways but really did not.

All this speculation leads us back to the original question: Can science solve the UFO mystery? I think that my conclusion, at least today, is that

science probably cannot. Science cannot disprove that the UFOs are extraterrestrial or extra-human. And if the UFOs are being directed by some truly superhuman intelligence, then science probably cannot prove their origin either, because obtaining proof would be dependent upon the will of that super-intelligence. We are left then with our intuition—which is what we had to begin with.

Whether or not science, or anyone, can tell us what UFOs are, depends on the nature and validity of the evidence for such encounters. Without real physical evidence, all we have to go on is that most unreliable of all forms of evidence, the testimony of human beings. James A. Harder, professor of engineering at the University of California at Berkeley when he wrote this piece, takes a measured look at whether physical evidence that UFOs have landed exists, and if so, why scientists have not reported it.

THE HARD EVIDENCE FOR UFOs
By James A. Harder, Ph.D.
(1980)

In describing the hard evidence for UFO reality, I do not wish to detract from the vast amount of "softer" evidence which has been amassed during the past thirty years. Much of this has been in the form of eyewitness testimony from law enforcement officers and is from multiple witnesses to the same event, and although most of the sightings have been from distances in excess of a mile, a significant number have been of UFOs at close range and have been of such duration that conventional aircraft or ground vehicles cannot explain them. Were this sort of eyewitness testimony offered in a murder case, the offender would be convicted beyond any reasonable doubt.

One definition of "hard evidence" is that provided by artifacts from UFOs or fragments of UFOs recovered from crash sites. I shall be describing two such instances, plus two cases that do more than simply provide evidence to show doubters—they tell us something about the nature of UFOs.

The first case is that of the Brazilian magnesium fragments, well described by Dr. Olavo T. Fontes in Chapter Nine of the book *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* by Coral E. Lorenzen and in a condensed form in *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, commonly known as the Condon Committee Report. These fragments were reportedly picked up in 1957 by a group of vacationers shortly after they observed the fiery explosion of a UFO above the surf near the town of Ubatuba, Sao Paulo, Brazil, where they were fishing. Dr. Fontes tracked down the fragments and submitted them to two laboratories; they reported that one of the fragments was of unusually high-purity magnesium, with no impurities detectable by spectrographic analysis. A second fragment was entirely consumed in efforts to explain its unusual density (1.866 grams cc instead of the expected 1.741) by repeatedly dividing it to look for oxide inclusions; none were found except on the surface.

A third fragment was sent to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in the United States. The Condon Committee submitted it for analysis to the Alcohol and Tobacco Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The division also analyzed two highly purified samples of laboratory grade magnesium, Dow Chemical Company "triply sublimed" magnesium and "Grignard

reagent grade" magnesium. The reported results are shown below:

Impurity Levels in Samples of Magnesium Metal (in PPM) as Determined by Neutron Activation Analysis

	Dow Mg. Triply Sublimed	Brazil UFO	Grignard Reagent Mg.
Manganese	4.8 + 0.	35 + 5	150 + 20
Aluminum	N.D. (<5)	N.D. (<10)	N.D. (<5)
Zinc	5. + 1.	500. + 100	3. + 1
Mercury	2.6 + 0.5	N.D.	N.D.
Chromium	5.9 + 12	32.0 + 10	3. + 1.
Copper	0.4 + 0.2	3.3 + 1.0	4.9 + 0.2
Barium	N.D.	160. + 20	N.D.
Strontium	N.D.	500. + 100.	N.D.

Manganese and aluminum values were obtained by gamma spectrometry and half-life measurement; zinc, mercury, and chromium values were obtained by gamma spectrometry alone; copper, barium, and strontium values were obtained by gamma spectrometry after radiochemical separation of the elements.

Because the Brazilian UFO magnesium "was found to be much less pure than the regular commercial metal produced in 1957 by the Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan," the committee concluded that it need not have come from an extraterrestrial source.

The committee investigators discovered that in 1940 Dow had produced a seven hundred-gram sample of magnesium that contained about the same amount of strontium (an unusual addition), though they said nothing about the barium or zinc. The investigators also failed to note that the Brazilian UFO fragment had no detectable mercury, whereas the Dow magnesium had 2.6 PPM mercury. Thus if we assume that .5 PPM is the detection limit for mercury, the Brazil UFO fragment had to be at least five times as pure (in this component) as the Dow metal. Also note that the Brazil magnesium was on the order of four times the purity of Grignard reagent grade magnesium in the manganese component.

Now, a little bit of elementary algebra will show that there's no way to produce the UFO magnesium out of either or any combination of these laboratory-grade samples of magnesium. It is conceivable that somewhere in the world somebody could have gone to an extraordinary amount of trouble,

starting with Dow triply sublimed magnesium, putting it through the purification process used for Grignard reagent grades, and planted the story and fragments with a gossip columnist. I suggest that logically this alternative hypothesis has a vanishingly small probability of being true.

Were there no other evidence for UFOs than this account supplies, most of us would accept this highly unlikely chain of events to explain the Brazil UFO magnesium fragments; what the UFO critics ask us to do, however, is to accept not one but hundreds of similarly unlikely alternative hypotheses in hundreds of other cases as well.

The very small number of apparent accidents like the one investigated by Fontes and described above has suggested an alternative hypothesis: that UFOs don't exist.

This notion is usually expressed in the question "If they're really here, why don't their craft ever malfunction?" Another hypothesis is that as part of a secrecy policy followed by the UFO intelligences such remains are recovered by the UFOs. Certainly the few instances in which artifacts have been recovered by human beings seem to be those in which the UFOs were unaware of the loss.

Such a case has been reported from Sweden. In 1956 two carpenters were returning from work one evening when suddenly the engine of their car stopped, just as they observed a large shining object coming from the sky on the right. They reported no sound but watched the object land in the road only about seventy-five meters ahead of them. They described it as being about fifteen meters across but not quite as high. After about eight or ten minutes it took off, lifting straight up for about ten meters and then accelerating quickly away. They had noticed that it was glowing, casting light for about one hundred meters around it, and gave a shimmering appearance, just as an asphalt pavement will do on a hot day.

Here I can do no better than to quote from a letter written by one of the men, Harry Sjoberg, to a Swedish UFO investigating organization, the IGF-UFO Sweden:

One November evening in 1956 I, Harry Sjoberg, and my friend Stig Ekberg were driving to the job we were doing at Vaddo. The trip took place on a Sunday evening, as we had been in Stockholm during the weekend. During the weeks we lived in a cottage we had rented near the working place.

As I remember this evening it was moonlight (full moon) and not a cloud in the sky. One Swedish mile or two (about six to twelve English miles)

before we arrived at our cottage, we suddenly saw, to the right in the sky, a light which was moving in the direction of the moon, which was on the left side of the road. When the object had come over to the left side, it made a sharp yaw to the right and landed on the road about seventy to eighty meters in front of us. Just before that, the motor of the car had begun to give us trouble and was then quite silent.

Stig said the phenomenon must be a new sort of searching the army had, but I disagreed strongly. This, I was sure, was something exceptional.

I remember that the road was about fifteen meters wide and that the object covered the whole road. I can imagine that it was about fifteen meters wide, and I estimate the height to be about four meters. To say something about the color—well, it was rather flat. The shades in the central section were steel-gray with a tinge of light yellow, the upper and lower sides somewhat reddish or orange.

I don't recall any smell but I do remember that it felt heavy to breathe. But this may be due to the fact that I live in a central part of Stockholm and now had come out of the city into the fresh sea air.

When the object had risen and disappeared out of our sight, we got out of the car to investigate the reason that the motor had stopped functioning. Stig opened the motor hood and began with a check of the cables from the battery to the distributor housing and the ignition plugs, but he could find nothing wrong. So he asked me to get into the car and try to start it, and it started without trouble. Stig took his seat behind the steering wheel to drive on to the cottage.

I wanted him to stop where we assumed that we had seen the shining object lying. Stig was anxious to return to the cottage as soon as possible, but at my insistence we stopped.

The first thing I noticed when I got out of the car was that the high grass growing along the ditch bank and inward from the road had been flattened in a curved area from the road, on both sides of the road. The light from the full moon lit the road brilliantly. Stig provided further light with his flashlight. Suddenly the flashlight beam caught some object which we at first thought was an oddly shaped stone. When Stig picked it up, it was warm. When I got it in my hand, I knew from its weight that it must be some kind of metal, and comparing the weight with the small size, I realized that the specific weight must be high. Stig took the "stone" and put it in the glove compartment, and we drove on to the cottage at Vaddo.

At the end of the week we went back to Stockholm. When I told my friends about the event, none of them believed me. Everybody said that it must be a joke or that our eyes were deceiving us. So I decided from then on to keep quiet about it.

In the summer of 1957 Stig and I met a metallurgist. Stig asked him if he would care to look at a metal piece we had found. The metallurgist saw it and suggested that it might be platinum, but he gave us the address of a laboratory that could analyze the piece. This was done but without result. After tests and research at two other laboratories, the metal piece was returned to Stig, divided into three smaller pieces, but with no information about the material of the piece. After that the metal pieces remained lying about for several years.

Some years ago, when Stig was in a bookstore, he heard a young man asking for books about flying saucers. Stig engaged him in conversation and learned that the man was connected with the Swedish UFO group. And that is how we came to write to you about our experience.

What we saw at Vaddo in 1956 was no vision, but a flying saucer that for some reason had force-landed to exchange a damaged part and for some reason had left the exchanged part where we found it.

The fifty-gram piece was sent to the *National Enquirer* as part of its UFO reward program and then to APRO for analysis. Our findings confirmed that it was extraordinarily dense, 14.92 grams/cc, and a spectrographic analysis showed that it was predominantly tungsten carbide, cemented with a small quantity of cobalt. Scanning electron microscope photographs showed the crystal structure to be very fine, with individual crystals ranging in size from one to three microns in diameter with a mean of 1.5 microns. This suggests a cemented structure that is produced by powdered metallurgy for tool bits. But comparison with a typical large tool bit, approximately the same size as the fragment, showed a density only on the order of 12.5; however, we found that carbide inserts used as cutting edges for large circular saws were very much smaller but were manufactured to a comparable density by a combination of heat and high pressures. So there is nothing in terms of composition except its unusual size combined with high density that can clearly distinguish it from terrestrial cutting tools.

Tungsten-carbide cutting edges are used in machining because they can hold an extremely hard edge at red heat. But the Swedish artifact has none of the characteristics of a cutting tool. Four surfaces are very flat, to be sure, but

all of the edges are well rounded (except where it is broken at the sixth face) and seem polished. The two larger parallel sides are slightly tapered (less than 1/1000); when measured for flatness, there was no observable deflection, on a machinist's dial gage that could be estimated to 1/10,000 inch, over a distance of .75 inches. The apex, or nose, is smoothly rounded in three dimensions, with radii of curvature about five mm. The thickness is twelve mm; the two converging sides are each about twenty-two mm long and form an included angle of 75°. None of these characteristics agrees with the form of a cutting-tool blank. To have a machine form this piece would be an extraordinarily difficult task, even for a skilled machinist: tungsten carbide cannot be cut, except by a diamond wheel, and must be ground using diamond abrasives, excepting for the minor sharpening done with a carbide wheel in shops.

Moreover, despite their very good flatness, the surfaces seem somewhat pocked by tiny pits resembling the micro-meteorite pits found on lunar rocks. There is one gouge, about four mm long and one mm deep along one of the rounded edges; the most interesting aspect of this gouge is that it does not have the fracture type of edge but seems almost flame-polished or ablated. This supports an hypothesis that the fragment has been exposed to outer-space micrometeorites, or perhaps has suffered reentry ablation.

We tried looking for cosmic-ray tracks in the carbide crystals but found none. Reportedly the fragment was subject to a melting attempt with the use of an oxyacetylene welding torch in Sweden, and this would be expected to anneal out such tracks (the melting point of tungsten carbide is 3143°K, nearly 5200°F, so the attempt was unsuccessful). So far we have found no anomalous isotope ratios.

I find it mildly amusing that UFO critics have frequently said that if UFOs were real, we would find physical evidence of them, perhaps at crash sites. But when shown physical evidence, they argue that it cannot be valid because UFOs are not real.

The above examples are of physical artifacts. Next I should like to turn to evidence which is somewhat softer but which nevertheless is instrumented—that is, a camera or other aid to observation was employed. Moreover, in each of the two cases, some intriguing quantitative data were obtained.

One is the Sedona photographic case, first published in the *APRO Bulletin.* The photograph was taken by C. Dwight Ghormley on September 23, 1967, near Sedona Arizona. Ghormley observed what looked like a large cylindrical

but bright propane tank in a horizontal position on the ground three-quarters of a mile off the highway and decided to photograph it with his Kodak "Holiday" 127 camera. But after he released the shutter and turned to roll the film to the next frame, he could see only a cloud of smoke or dust. He estimated that the object was three-fourths of a mile away, based on its position relative to the background bluff.

By a stroke of luck Ghormley took the film to be developed to the photo shop of an APRO member, N. C. "Mac" McEntarfer of Flagstaff, who recognized its value and has been able to find the original photographer, the negative, and the camera. Ghormley, the photographer, has been cooperative and helpful and has provided APRO with the negative and the camera for evaluation. Apparently Ghormley released the shutter at nearly the exact moment (actually about .005 second later) that the UFO began a nearly vertical ascent. The rest of the story is provided by the film record.

The camera was an inexpensive model with a fixed focus, single-speed shutter, and a fixed lens opening. When examined in my laboratory in April 1973, the shutter opened (from 10 percent to 90 percent) in five milliseconds (ins), remained open for a duration of twenty to twenty-eight ms., and closed in four ms. The duration showed a time random fluctuation, partly due to the different pressures used to press the release and apparently partly due to some stickiness in its operation. The calculated effective speed was thus 1/35 second. This camera was reported to have a shutter speed of 1/75 second, so I then flooded the shutter mechanism with ethylene dichloride solvent and found that the rise time remained at five ms., but the duration was shortened to eleven to fourteen ms. and the fall or closing time to three ms. After this cleaning the effective shutter speed was 1/60 second, which was probably closer to its speed when new. The shutter speed in 1967 was probably some value between these two, and I will assume a duration of twenty-plus ms., an opening time of five ms., and a closing time of four ms.

From the focal length of the lens and the length distance to the object and the length of the trace on the negative, we can calculate the distance (at right angles to the line of sight) that the object moved. Measurements from the negative show that from the lowest barely visible image to the brightest of the images is .14 inches; from the brightest image to the last distinct image is .20 inches, and above that there is a faint trace .10 inches long, for a total length of .44 inches. At a distance of four thousand feet from the camera, this represents a transverse distance of seven hundred feet traversed in

approximately 29 ms. The calculated speed is thus on the order of twenty-four thousand feet per second, or sixteen thousand miles per hour.

This is indeed a very high speed, but it is still within the range of speeds measured by radar (as for example in the Lakenheath, England, case). It is high enough to give the appearance of "disappearance" to a nearby observer, insofar as it is more than several times the speed of a rifle bullet.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the photograph is the large number of distinct images that appear. From their density on the negative, which is greater than that of the brightest part of the sky, we infer that the object was quite bright and that possibly the distinct images are due to a flashing on and off of a light source. Since each flash could be no more than about .001 second (one ms.) in duration and the sky was exposed for the entire shutter opening, the object brightness was on the order of twenty-five to fifty times as bright as the sky.

Interestingly, the density of the first several images increases steadily from the beginning of the trace to the point where, on the basis of a uniform velocity, one would expect the shutter to be fully opened. A similar observation is not possible at the end of the trace, where the images fade into the cloud background. Critics have suggested that the traces are but a lens flare. They do not, however, look like any lens flare known to the writer, and it seems unlikely that a single-lens camera would show such multiple images of the sun. To support such a theory one would have to claim that Ghormley was perpetrating a hoax (since he claimed he did see the UFO on the ground and the cloud of dust). But who would expect a hoaxer to produce such an unlikely photograph of a UFO?

A second instrumented observation was made by Wells A. Webb in 1953. It has provided evidence of something similar to a very strong magnetic field surrounding the UFO he observed. When he first saw the object, it appeared to be a fuzzy white oblong object at an altitude angle of about 45°, azimuth north. Its length was about half the diameter of a full moon, its width about one-third its length. He observed no change in appearance when it was observed with and without Polaroid glasses.

After about five minutes the object had moved to a position 30° eastward; it then suddenly became circular in appearance and no longer moved but became gradually smaller. In this position he observed three concentric dark rings around the object; the largest was about six times the diameter of the object. The rings were visible only when viewed with Polaroid glasses.

Webb repeatedly looked with and without glasses. The sky was clear blue and the time (10:00 A.m.), and the position in the sky suggested to the writer that the rings were the result of the rotation of polarized light scattered from the atmosphere. That the rings were about one-third width of their spacing again suggests the Faraday effect. Assuming the Verdet constant for the sodium line to apply (V = 6.8 X $10^{-°}$ minutes arc/gauss-cm) at sea-level conditions, we can infer a maximum rotation of about 450° (90 plus two times 180) was caused by a magnetic field of 4 X 10° gauss-cm, or a field of 10^{0} gauss extending over a distance of forty meters, according to my calculations. The Wells A. Webb observation is the first known instrumented observation (other than camera) of a UFO.

If what Webb observed was due to a magnetic field, it could have been produced only by a steady field, or one in which the field strength changes as in a square wave. An ordinary alternating sine-wave field would smear out the rotation. Such a huge, steady field would have a noticeable attractive effect on any iron object in the vicinity of the UFO; this is not reported, except in some of the levitation reports, which of course are not restricted to iron objects. On the other hand, a very high frequency high-intensity magnetic field could cause some of the other effects reported on electrical machinery and in connection with the stopping of automobile internal-combustion engines depending on a spark ignition.

The above four examples do not do justice to the very large number of cases which constitute the hard evidence for UFO reality. But these represent hard evidence of a sort that has involved physical evidence and instrumented observations which not only prove the existence of UFOs but also provide hard evidence of scientific value as well.

Supposedly the incontrovertible physical evidence people are looking for resides under lock and key in Area 51 of Edwards Air Force base near Roswell Nevada, suppressed and hidden from view by the U.S. government. UFO debunkers deride this claim and ridicule those who believe in it. Yet Edgar Mitchell, a sober-minded engineer, naval officer, and astronaut who famously walked on the Moon's surface, counts himself among the believers.

EDGAR MITCHELL SAYS "ROSWELL WAS REAL"

By Rosemary Ellen Guiley

(2005)

"Roswell was a real incident—bodies and materials were recovered, and it was investigated by MJ-12." So asserted astronaut Edgar Mitchell at the July 2004 UFO Festival in Roswell, New Mexico. Roswell has been at the center of continuing controversy in ufology since July 2, 1947, when an alien craft allegedly crashed nearby. Was it really a UFO, or was it something else—maybe even a weather balloon, as the government quickly claimed? Mitchell sided with the belief of most ufologists that an alien vehicle did crash, and both live and dead extraterrestrials and craft artifacts were recovered by the military.

The Cover-up Is Real

Mitchell, who grew up in Roswell and nearby Artesia, became the sixth American astronaut to walk on the moon in 1971. He told his audience at the Roswell Civic Center that he has never had a firsthand UFO experience. He said he has become convinced of the reality of ETs from briefings and testimonials he has received from individuals in government, military, and intelligence circles. He described some of his sources as "old timers" who had longstanding knowledge about ET events, plus a source of "recent vintage in a very high position in the military." This source thought he should have oversight on UFO and alien matters and undertook an investigation. Mitchell said the source found out things were going on right under his nose, but he was told that he could have no access to them.

"He and another source confirmed that some of these events are very real—there is equipment, there are aliens, there have been bodies in our grasp, in our laboratories." Mitchell said he was convinced of reverse engineering of alien craft, and that much of what is reported in the ufology literature of sightings and contacts is homegrown.

Mitchell added that not every event reported is true, and some of the data associated with various events may not be true. He said he could not give more details without compromising his sources.

Mitchell said he was disturbed at the history of government cover-up. There may have been a rationale for it 50 years ago, but not now. "It's hard to know when we're going to be able to crack this. Sooner or later, it's going to break open." Mitchell does not know how to break open the cover-up. He has tried to do so, traveling to Washington, D.C., to brief members of Congress and White House staff. "They listen and then they go away and do nothing."

Mitchell said that John F. Kennedy was the last president to have significant knowledge of the truth about ETs. "He probably had a pretty good handle on what's going on. Those since then don't, and those who have asked have been rebuffed!"

Resistance from the mainstream media has been a problem ever since the Roswell incident. "We basically have the press against us."

Spending tax money year after year on secret programs without public oversight is criminal, Mitchell said. He fears the country is heading toward more dictatorial control and loss of freedom. "We have to see what we can do as citizens to keep pressing the case." He advocated that people work on their own consciousness, and understand how to use the power of intentionality. "When we know how to get ourselves together and create intentionality, we can move the world!"

Mitchell had a mystical experience during the return of the Apollo 14 mission, in which he realized that his atoms, as well as the atoms of his fellow crew mates and other humans, are fused with the ancient atoms of the stars. In 1972, he founded the Institute of Noetic Sciences, based in Sausalito, California, to pursue scientific research of mystical and spiritual experiences, and the mind-body connection.

Smoke and Mirrors

The mixture of fact and disinformation about ETs and UFOs referred to by Edgar Mitchell has plagued modern ufology since its post-World War II beginnings. Information and documents about MJ-12 (a.k.a. Majestic-12) came to light in the 1980s, via William Moore (co-author of *The Roswell Incident*, 1980, with Charles Berlitz), Moore's associate Jamie Shandera, and two military sources: Sgt. Richard C. Doty of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Kirtland Air Force Base near Albuquerque, and former U.S. Air Force captain Robert Collins. In 1984 Shandera received anonymously a roll of 35- millimeter film of photographs of an alleged briefing paper from Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter to President-Elect Dwight D. Eisenhower,

dated November 18, 1952.

According to the paper, Operation Majestic-12 was secretly established by President Harry S Truman in 1947 to investigate the Roswell crash and oversee ET issues. Its 12 members included top scientists, intelligence personnel, and military officers. The paper established the term "Extra-terrestrial Biological Entities," or "EBEs" as the designated term for aliens. A copy of the briefing paper also was leaked to British ufologist Timothy Good.

Its authenticity debated, the paper nonetheless became a center point in the UFO cover-up controversy. In 1989 Moore spoke at the annual MUFON conference and admitted to having participated in a disinformation counterintelligence operation. He said he thought that some of the information he had passed along to ufologists was true.

More documents related to MJ-12, its members, and its activities have been publicly disclosed and examined; some have been determined to be false. (For more information on the complexities of MJ-12, see the forensics work of Robert Wood and Ryan Wood, sponsors of the UFO Crash Retrieval conferences in Las Vegas, at www.majesticdocuments.com.)

ET Briefings

About three months after the 2004 Roswell festival, a former high-ranking employee of the Central Intelligence Agency admitted privately to receiving four briefings about aliens over a period of years, *Fate* learned.

The ex-employee said the briefings took place around 1984 in a Pentagon SCIF (Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, a room electromagnetically sealed and used for top secret briefings), in 1987 at a western U.S. military base, in 1999 at a private location in Florida, and in September 2004 at an undisclosed location in Washington, D.C. The briefings were given by an unspecified GS-14 employee, a colonel and a captain in the U.S. Air Force, and a past assistant to the Secretary of Defense. The ex-CIA employee said that the briefings included information on reverse engineering.

An analyst who has worked for the CIA and who has open interests in such subjects as ufology, crop circles, free energy, and passive coherent radar, has opined privately that these briefings may be part of a smoke screen of deception, or a decoy. According to another source, this analyst has said that he is aware of dozens of such alleged briefings, but that he has been unable to find connections between the known briefers. Typically there

would be a single, low-echelon staff person at a given facility involved, but the supervisor would claim to be unaware of the briefing.

The ex-CIA employee who was briefed said he had no problem with this as a broad interpretation, but that there was a core story that remained consistent.

The question remains: what is the true core story?

Testing the Artifacts

Meanwhile, a controversy heated up over the test results of an alleged crash artifact. While giving a presentation at the Roswell UFO Museum and Research Center for the July festival, veteran ufologist Stanton T. Friedman was given a small piece of thin metal retrieved in June 2004 from the Plains of San Augustin northwest of Roswell, where a second UFO crash was believed to have happened at about the same time as the Roswell-Corona crash in July 1947.

The artifact was presented by Chuck Wade, who surprised Friedman and his fellow panelists Don Schmitt and Tom Carey by coming forward from the audience. Wade is a retired civil engineer living in Gallup, New Mexico, who has been investigating the crash incidents.

Friedman had the metal analyzed at a California forensics laboratory with whom he has worked in the past. The assessment on the sample was that it was a dirty piece of ordinary aluminum. A concentration of silicon was present on the uncleaned surface but not on the cleaned surface. The silicon apparently was in the dirt embedded on the metal's surface.

Wade later took issue with the results during a presentation he gave at the second annual UFO Crash Retrieval Conference in Las Vegas in November 2004. He had six other metal artifacts retrieved from the same dig site sent to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro for testing. The results told a different story: an apparently anomalous composition of aluminum and silicon that could not be attributed to surface dirt.

Wade grew up in Corona, and his father knew Mac Brazel, the rancher who found the original crash debris. Wade himself knew Brazel's sons. Wade was guided to search in the Plains of San Augustin by Art Campbell, an Oregon researcher who had presented on his artifact finds in the plains at the first UFO Crash Retrieval Conference in Las Vegas in 2003 and the UFO symposium in Aztec, New Mexico in March 2004.

Wade's June 2004 dig involved nine people, including Campbell. The

group found several pieces of apparent aluminum alloy ranging from 17 microns to 1,500 microns in thickness.

The six pieces sent for analysis ranged from 17 to 65 microns in thickness. Wade said their content was tested according to cross sections. One piece 30 microns in thickness was analyzed at 91 percent aluminum, 6 percent iron and 3 percent silicon. Household aluminum foil is 17 microns thick and typically is 98.5 percent aluminum and 1.5 percent other ingredients, he said. "The silicon [in the artifact] did not come from the soil—I want to stress that," he said.

Wade believes the piece given to Friedman should be re-analyzed.

Ever aspired to join the ranks of Ufologists and help uncover proof flying saucers exist? Anyone can become a UFO investigator if they follow these simple precepts says Joshua P. Warren, head of a firm that conducts paranormal investigations.

HOW TO INVESTIGATE, DETECT AND DOCUMENT UFOs

By Joshua P. Warren

(2005)

Would you like to document UFOs? Of all paranormal phenomena, UFOs are the most difficult to study. There are many reasons for this. Firstly, the general definition of a UFO is vague. The term means "unidentified flying object." When most people hear these words, they immediately think of spacecraft piloted by extraterrestrial aliens. Of course, this is a far cry from the definition. An unidentified flying object is dependent upon the subjective perception of a viewer. After all, what is unidentified to me might not be unidentified to you.

With each passing year, possible explanations for UFOs become more and more expansive. Mankind has made stunning progress in the realm of flight. It's startling to think the first mechanically powered craft was invented just over a century ago. The principles governing its operation seem absurdly crude to our current understanding. It's truly exhilarating to contemplate what today's aeronautical geniuses have accomplished. This makes it even more difficult to separate otherworldly technology from the capabilities of our fellow Earthlings.

To analyze the UFO definition further, what qualifies as an "object"? Many dictionaries, such as Webster's, define it as a "material thing." But when one witnesses something, illuminated or otherwise, traveling through the sky, how can the observer be sure it is a "material thing"? Perhaps the sight is the product of an optical illusion. Or what about aspects of a natural phenomenon like ball lightning? Can this be called a UFO?

It is almost impossible to comprehend the variables regarding those things floating around our planet. Not only do we have to contend with craft directly manned by humans, but also with satellites, balloons, space junk, and drones. The task of separating out each of these is difficult, not to mention those man-made things with which we are not familiar and the possibility of extraordinary machines that could represent visitors from another realm. Retrieving information from government agencies or private enterprises is inherently ineffective. If an organization is keeping a secret, it's not going to

expose it simply because you request a report!

Another reason it is hard to study UFOs is that most of us are stuck here on the ground, peering wondrously upon the broad, deep heavens above. To see a light parting the inky blackness of night, darting here and there, and then shooting off into the unseen distance, reinforces our sense of helplessness. Those who research ghosts usually work within the limits of a haunted property, and those who investigate cryptids like Bigfoot have the planet to explore, but how can one go about investigating the universe? We don't even know how big the universe is. It seems a ufologist cannot truly apprehend the subject of his or her investigation.

If a particular UFO is a craft piloted by extraterrestrials, then the technology being employed is evidently advanced beyond our own. That automatically makes the idea of determining how to understand and document it difficult. Perhaps it could be compared to a monkey comprehending the mechanics of a helicopter flying overhead, or a fish at the blackest depths of the ocean grasping the implications of a passing submarine.

Ruling out Conventional Aircraft

Whatever a UFO may be, if we are to obtain any understanding of the anomaly, we must have some basic techniques for gathering information about it. When trying to determine the nature of an unexplained subject, the first step should be to rule out normal possibilities. We must also consider everything we know about how a craft, conventional or theoretical, can fly, and apply that to our methodology.

Man-made aircraft currently in widespread use employ basic aerodynamic theory, rooted in air pressure manipulation. Wings and rotors produce lift due to their shape. They are designed so that, as they move, air travels more quickly over their tops, generating low pressure above, but doing just the opposite below, creating high pressure that pushes upward. Forward thrust is achieved by either tilting the lift mechanism, as with a helicopter's rotors, or using a separate system that pushes air backward, such as an airplane's propeller or jets.

Conventional powered aircraft use strong motors to move a large quantity of air in a short period of time. This creates loud and distinct noises as the air vibrates at a high rate, easily perceived by naked human ears across a substantial distance. Of course, all these devices are also capable of gliding

silently for a limited period, but this is seldom done in traditional flight.

Furthermore, due to safety issues, conventional aircraft are required to display lights. These lights are usually white, red, or blue, and some of them blink at a regular rate. An aircraft's headlights do not blink, of course. If such a vehicle approaches head-on, it can be quite misleading to the casual observer. From the observer's perspective, a plane approaching at a distance may look like an isolated white light that stays steady for quite a while, producing the illusion of a still light that gradually grows in intensity. Eventually, the sound of the machine will become apparent and the blinking lights can be seen. If one only observes the oncoming craft's headlights for a short period, it can be easy to confuse this with a UFO.

If a particular UFO report does not feature the sounds and illuminations associated with airplanes and helicopters, we are left with other mundane sources such as gliders, balloons, satellites, space junk, illusions, and meteorological phenomena. Meteors are familiar as fast shooting stars. Space junk appears similar to meteors, and balloons, gliders, and satellites remain on a fairly level, direct course traveling across the sky or horizon. Keeping these qualities in mind will help in the process of filtering out common airborne objects.

Technical Qualities of Traditional UFOs

Those who report UFOs frequently describe the following characteristics: silent movement, incredibly fast motion (often sudden), an organized pattern of lights, and electrical disruptions on the ground below. Based on our current understanding of non-conventional aircraft, these features seem to indicate a machine that relies more on electromagnetic or electrostatic forces to travel rather than on the control of airflow.

The idea of a craft that defies gravity by manipulating electrical energy is not as advanced as it may seem. Brilliant scientists across our planet have devised such methods of air travel that could be achieved with relative ease. At this point, the only challenge is making a lightweight power supply capable of generating the voltage and current necessary.

A good example of an electrical flying machine concept is embodied by the Naudin Lifter design. Following in the footsteps of T. Townsend Brown, scientist Jean-Louis Naudin has produced model craft that levitate when voltage is applied despite having no moving parts.

These models work based upon an asymmetrical capacitor design. A

capacitor, or condenser, is capable of accumulating small electrical charges to a critical point at which there is a big discharge. The most basic capacitor is formed by two conductors separated by a non-conductor. You can make a simple one by taking a plastic container and putting one layer of aluminum foil on the inside and another on the outside. One aluminum layer should not be connected to the other. If a charge is applied to one layer of foil, it will build and strengthen until a massive discharge occurs between the two layers of foil, acting as two electrodes. Even though there is no physical connection between the metal layers, their forces interact through the non-conductor. Capacitors are a common and simple aspect of electrical technology, and are often employed not only to turn small voltages into large ones, but to also create electrical pulses, as a charge may accumulate and discharge many times per second.

Typically, a capacitor has two metal layers of equal size. Something quite strange occurs if one layer, or plate, is smaller than its mate. The electrical attraction between the plates creates an unbalanced force, and this results in a thrust from the larger metallic layer toward the smaller. To put it more simply, if the larger plate is on the bottom of the capacitor, with a very small secondary plate above it, the entire capacitor will levitate. Lightweight condensers that levitate when voltage is applied to each conductive layer are called lifters. Such models prove that a craft can defy gravity, and produce net thrust, by utilizing electrical forces. Lifters are dependent upon voltage and current, and a big reason we have not trashed our familiar airplanes and helicopters is that we have yet to discover a power supply lightweight enough to travel with the lifter designs. Current models must be tethered to a strong power supply. There is absolutely no doubt: we could each be traveling the earth in flying saucers tomorrow if we could only produce high amounts of electrical energy from a lightweight source.

The accompanying photographs show a crude model, made from foam dinner plates, depicting how a UFO in earth's atmosphere might work if a sufficient power supply were available. Even though the thrust from a large metallic plate toward a small one has been described in terms of lift, you must remember that lift ultimately means thrust. Lift implies a vertical motion. But this same momentum can be applied to movement in any direction, hence the ability to control an aircraft completely. However, lifters do not work in vacuums, so they presumably cannot explain interstellar travel. Even though this type of machine probably cannot be directly applied

to the concept of visiting space aliens, they might certainly have relevance with regard to UFOs that may come from an earthly source, like secret projects by the government or private organizations.

By describing the lifter concept, we have shown that crafts like the classical flying saucer can definitely exist. Even if those flying saucer-type crafts are entirely different from the design I have proposed, we are at least closer to comprehending these technologies by demonstrating models, however simplistic, that can reproduce the most outstanding features reported in relation to most UFO sightings.

If a large lifter were in operation, it could be virtually silent, illuminated, and capable of attaining extraordinary speeds, beyond the limitations of aerodynamic-dependent machines. And such a device would most certainly cause electrical disruptions in its proximity. The pulses of energy between each plate of its capacitance structure would cause strong electromagnetic ripples, and the amount of electrostatic charge might be equally large. This would affect not only local electronics, but also organic substances.

Common Tools for Your Research

How does all this apply to the detection of UFOs? Thousands of unidentifiable lights have been photographed, filmed, and taped over the years. Even though some of these images are quite clear, very little can be concluded from an image alone. One might examine pictures and quickly rule out obvious hoaxes, but even an image that stands up to all scrutiny can never qualify as proof. It is simply too easy to fake images, especially in this day and age. Therefore, an image is only truly useful when it is correlated with other information gained objectively. For example, if a UFO were captured with a thermal camera, it would not only depict the object, but also give a temperature associated with the object. This temperature could be used to rule out conventional craft, optical illusions, and other possibilities.

Powerful sources of electrical discharge, like those associated with our models of UFO behavior and craft, would certainly cause disruptions in other electrical devices. One of the simplest meters for this type of energy is a common radio tuned to the AM dial. If you're on the lookout for UFOs, have an AM radio alongside your camera. The radio should be on a blank frequency; primarily delivering static. Whether you tune to the higher or lower end may not be that important. The types of signals generated by an electrical UFO would span a wide range. However, if you pick up some kind

of disruption or intelligent signal when a UFO is seen, you'll definitely want to make a note of the channel you used. This will help in determining the frequency of energy correlated with the UFO when analyzing your results later.

Even though a traditional man-made craft can create signals picked up by AM receivers, they are not nearly so outstanding as those associated with UFOs. For comparison, document how your radio responds when an airplane or helicopter flies over. This will help you rule out such conventional sources. (An AM radio is so sensitive to electrical signals that it can even pick up meteors burning through the atmosphere.)

Electrostatic energy is the same kind you build up when rubbing your socks on the carpet before touching a doorknob to receive a shock. Electrostatic energy can make your hair stand on end or cause similar physical effects. One of the easiest detectors of strong static electricity is a fluorescent light bulb. In the presence of a powerful field, the bulb will illuminate even if it is not attached to any wires. This is because the charges excite the gas inside the tube. To test this, take a plastic comb, balloon, or piece of PVC plumbing pipe and rub it briskly on a piece of wool or similar material to generate an electrical charge. You may hear a slight crackle as the energy builds, and upon holding the charged object to your face, you'll feel a prickle similar to that caused by an old fashioned television screen. In a dark room, hold your freshly charged object to the fluorescent bulb and you'll see it illuminate. Some bulbs will light up more easily than others, and high humidity will make the experiment more difficult. Nonetheless, this can be used to ensure you have an effective electrostatic meter. If your bulb illuminates in the presence of a UFO, you have most likely measured a significant electrostatic charge.

Another common device a UFO researcher should have on hand is a compass. Compasses are sensitive to magnetism. Of course, a compass should always point north, and if set still, the needle should not vary from its position. However, if a compass needle does deviate when a UFO is seen, that means a magnetic field is being detected. Conventional aircraft create a magnetic field, but it is so weak that it should not be detected by a traditional compass on the ground. If your needle goes haywire, you are witnessing something exceptional.

By having an AM-tuned radio, fluorescent bulb, and compass on the scene, you can gain valuable insight into the nature of any UFO captured by

your camera. Those simple tools will effectively document a wide range of electromagnetic waves, electrostatic energy, and magnetic fields. Obviously, there are electronic devices specifically made to measure each of these things. However, such instruments can be expensive and require a notable amount of technical insight. Advanced investigators will want to purchase more accurate equipment. But these simple, affordable, easily accessible gadgets are an excellent introduction to recording a UFO's energy qualities objectively. Also keep in mind that video and digital cameras are sensitive to some infrared light. (You can test your camera by viewing a TV remote control's infrared beam through the lens.) That means your camera might be able to perceive a UFO that is invisible to your naked eyes.

If your UFO experience goes beyond a sighting and includes abduction or communication, you probably won't find detection tools necessary for your personal insight. But if your experience is like most, it will only involve a mysterious light in the sky. Lots of things, from hoaxes to conventional craft to natural phenomena, can generate airborne illuminations. But not everything produces measurable amounts of energy in the electromagnetic, electrostatic, and magnetic ranges.

PART II.
UFOs, SEEN EVERY WHEN AND EVERY WHERE

Flying saucer sightings are not, as some have claimed, a singularly Unites States of America phenomenon, nor even a modern one. Reports of such go back to the dawn of recorded history and encompass the globe, as Erich von Daniken and others have noted. Here, from the pages of Fate *are but a small sampling of some of the more intriguing UFO encounters from around the world and across many years.*

Cambridge educated British journalist and historian Harold T. Wilkins, famed for his researches into pirates and their lost treasures, privately compiled hundreds of eye-witness accounts of British isle UFO sightings stretching back more than a millennium. His work conclusively proved that flying saucer encounters are by no means confined to our modern era.

1000 YEARS OF UFOs
By Harold T. Wilkins
(1951)

Flying saucers, if they are interplanetary machines, have been looking over this green spinning globe not for years but for centuries!

I make this statement not arbitrarily but after extensive research into the archives of the British Royal Society dating back for 288 years, from medieval chroniclers, from 17th century astronomers' ephemerides — English, German, Hollander, French and Italian — from old magazines in a day when none but the wealthy read or wrote for such journals, and from very rare volumes in Latin or other more modern tongues. In many cases the instances cited here have been translated into English for the first time.

Based upon these researches I see no alternative but to conclude that our earth has been under observation by mysterious cosmic entities for some 1,250 years past!

In the 16th, 17th and especially in the 18th century many of these strange spectacles took the form of surprising lights. These were definitely not the *aurora borealis,* which was as well known to astronomers and northern peoples then as now.

These phenomena often took the form of burning streams of light. Such lights were seen over London in 1560 and 1564, and over Brabant, in what is now Belgium, in 1575, when a professor of medicine, Cornelitis Gamma of the University of Louvain, described them. Often the lights were so powerful that one could see the smallest pin or straw on the ground by their powerful illumination. They seemed to be extremely powerful searchlights, projected from the skies to the ground.

In the year 1733 comes the first report of the appearance of one of those gleaming aluminum-like bodies that America of 1946-50 knows so well as "flying saucers". *In broad daylight* on Dec. 8, 1733, a Mr. Cracker of Fleet, a small township in Dorset, England, was startled to see, as he says:

"Something in the sky which appeared in the north, but vanished from my sight, as it was intercepted by trees, from my vision. I was standing in a valley. The weather was warm, the sun shone brightly. On a sudden it re-appeared, darting in and out of my sight with an amazing coruscation. The

colour of this phenomenon was like burnished, or new washed silver. It shot with speed like a star falling in the night. But it had a body much larger and a train longer than any shooting star I have seen. At my coming home, one Brown told me that the body and the train seemed 20 feet long. Next day, Mr. Edgecombe informed me that he and another gentleman had seen this strange phenomenon at the same time as I had. It was about 15 miles from where I saw it, and steering a course from E. to N."

Another of these cosmic visitants took the form of a slender pyramid. It was seen about 15 minutes after sunset on April 3, 1707. It was perpendicular to the horizon, of rusty red color, and visible for an hour. "I have never seen anything like it," said the observer, a parson named Derham, fellow of the Royal Society.

A mysterious object shaped *like a trumpet* appeared on three occasions in the English skies — 1710, 1744, and 1745. It was seen first on May 18, 1710, by Ralph Thoresby, F. R. S., over Leeds, Yorkshire, at 9:45 p.m.

"A queer apparition like a trumpet, with a broad end. It moved north to south, with the broad end foremost. As it moved it emitted light. People were startled to see their own shadows with no moon or sun in the sky . . . it was seen from three other counties . . ."

The same or a similar cosmic machine was seen, 34 years later, on May 27, at 11:11 p.m., by Henry Baker, F.R.S., who reported:

"This strange phenomenon moved SE, to NW. It seemed to be not half a mile up in the sky over Somerset Gardens, London, where I watched it. A white clear light like a flame was emitted from its head and body. The colour of the flame was like sulphur."

Next year, on July 14, 1745, an identical cosmic visitant was seen at 8 p.m. by a parson, at Stanlake Broad, Norfolk, Eng. All the data suggest strongly that here was some extra-terrestrial machine.

But the most amazing report of all was made by a fellow of the British Royal Society going home from a meeting of the society, in the evening of Dec. 16, 1742. It was a year after the globe of fire had been seen over Peckham, London. As this man entered St. James's Park, London, he was startled to see suddenly rise above the trees of the park a weird apparition. Here is what he said:

"A sudden light rose from behind the trees and houses to the south and west, which at first I thought was a rocket of large size. But when it rose 20 degrees (above the skyline) it moved parallel to the horizon, and moved like

this." (He drew an undulating line.) "It went on in the direction of north by east. It seemed very near but its motion was slow. A light flame was turned backward by the resistance the air made to its passage. From one end, the strange object emitted a bright glare and fire like that of burning charcoal. That end was like a frame made of bars of iron. It was quite opaque to my sight. At one point on the longitudinal frame, or cylinder, issued a train of light more bright at one point, on the rod or frame, than it was at the end, where it gradually became fainter, so that it was transparent for more than half its length. The head of this strange object seemed about half a degree in diameter, and the tail three degrees in length."

The observer signed himself merely *"C. M."* He may, like some Americans in our own day, not have cared to risk the scoffing of the armchair cynics and skeptics.

Another mystery took the form of a strange rolling cloud in whose center glowed a remarkable sphere of fire. This phenomenon came across the quiet countryside northwest of Newry, County Down, Ireland, at 12 noon on January 1, 1751. Two men who saw it believed that the end of the world was near at hand!

Here is the report of an observer:

"This strange body of fire came across country for 15 miles, after two men had seen the terrifying thing rise, at 12 noon, off the mountains of Morn (Mourne), near Newry. The fire appeared in a cloud reaching from the sky to the ground. It was, or appeared, six yards square, and its forward motion was very slow, so very slow that any person who had presence of mind might have gone out of its way. Its course was direct . . . and it turned continually around like a whirlwind, giving out a great noise in the air, and a smell like sulphur. Trees in an orchard were split from top to bottom, roofs lifted off dwelling houses, and a woman killed in the highway."

Surely, here was a mystery that would have warmed the heart of that sardonic humorist, the late Charles Fort, who did so much of his research in the British Museum at Bloomsbury. But what on earth or in the sky was it? No meteor ever moved at this slow rate of locomotion, with a rotary action!

People at Koln, Germany, and Edinburgh, saw a strange phenomenon on March 10, 1756. In a clear sky, at from 7 to 8 p.m., there appeared a pencil of light. It shone like what we should today call the emission of exhaust and incandescent gases, the motor being a "tail" facing towards the north. It remained stationary for about an hour. Then it vanished with neither sparks,

smoke or emission of gases. The same visitant had appeared over Avignon, France, at 6.10 p.m.

What looked like a "football" of immense size seemed to descend from the sky over Colchester, England, at 8 p.m., on December 31, 1758. It vanished "like a squib without a report."

Machines like cones now began to appear in the night skies. At Edinburgh, Scotland, one swam into the sky at 9 p.m., on November 26, 1758. Its velocity was very great. Sparks came from it as it passed, and so powerful a light was projected that the most minute object could be seen in the streets. The same machine appeared over Glasgow as a globe of fire like a full moon. It seemed to divide into three parts, and then ascended through the atmosphere!

Edinburgh had another bad shock at 9 p.m. on August 18, 1783, when there suddenly appeared in the sky a globe of fire of "uncommon magnitude." Its speed was immense and it had a rotary motion about its axis. It was like a sphere with a cone for tail! The cone may have been the exhaust emission of gases. Terrified people, looking up into the sky, heard come from it a sound like the working of powerful motors! Glasgow saw the same strange object two nights later.

I give above a contemporary drawing of the machine seen over Edinburgh and Glasgow on the nights of August 18 and 20, 1783. The rotary motion is clearly shown. Down south at Greenwich, near the famous Observatory but 12 days later, at 9:11 p.m. on August 30, 1783, the same great ball appeared in the sky, but now it was seen to have a consort sphere! Its motion was not rapid, but the light it emitted was astounding in its brilliance. It went SSE. In 1785, two years later, on December 26, at 9 p.m. an identical blazing sphere was seen over Edinburgh, Dublin, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Plymouth and Chelsea, London.

Astronomers of that day were set searching their records and they found that for seven hours in 1716 the same type of cosmic machine had been seen all over England. It was, be it noted, *visible for seven hours!* It was seen to be brilliantly coloured and to "emit a pure light."

New England; U.S.A. had a turn on May 10, 1760, when a most remarkable object like a blazing sphere appeared in the broad light of day. Over Roxbury and Bridgwater the thing went round in a circle and a noise as of working machinery came from it. It threw out so powerful a light that even in strong sunshine it cast a shadow! The circle over which it flew had a

diameter of 80 miles.

In 1762 and 1764, Oxford, England, was startled by lights like a blazing arch in the sky from 8 to 10 p.m. In 1765 London was startled by the same mysterious arch. At Oxford an old college don named Swinton, who spent one and a half hours watching this light from the quadrangle of Christ's Church College, swore that he had seen nothing like it in his life and was positive it was not the aurora borealis. Into the streets of Bideford, Devon, on December 5, 1762, terrified people poured at 8:50 p.m. to look at a large body in the sky like a twisting serpent, which descended slowly in the sky and from which shone a dazzling light. It was like a sun and lit up the dark streets with a noontide blaze. It seemed to go out by degrees as though the light had been turned off. It is shown on page 29.

Twice in the 18th century there appeared in the skies of old England and Scotland a strange body like a house on fire. It was seen for an hour over Oxford, on the night of October 24, 1769. The whole hemisphere of the sky seemed to blaze. London and Windsor Castle saw it. Tiberius Cavallo, F.R.S., watched a cosmic body, like this, from the terrace of the royal castle. It was first stationary and appeared oblong. Then it moved, emitting prodigious light.

It vanished to the SE, lighting up the night like day. It jetted gases from a tail and there came a rumble like an explosion. At first it moved horizontally to the horizon then vertically, ascending. It was seen at York, about 180 miles north, where horses in fields trembled at the glare it threw out. A church dignitary there heard two great explosions. It was later seen over Ireland, where it now assumed the form of a parabolic body with a vividly red and blue luminous tail.

But this strange body, like a house on fire in the sky, had been seen two years earlier — in September 1767 at Couper Angus, Scotland, and in most startling guise!

Said a very old and rare Scottish magazine:

"Over the water near Couper Angus there came a thick dark smoke, which rose to reveal a large luminous body like a house on fire. It took a pyramidal form, rolled forward with great impetuosity and rushed up the river Erick with great speed. It carried away a large cart, lifted in the air a man riding a horse, stunned him, and cut a house in a half, as well as destroying an arch of a new bridge. Then it vanished."

In 1775 there appeared in the sky at 8.30 p.m. on May 8, a strange ball of

light with a slow motion. It shone like the full moon and passed over Waltham Abbey, Hertfordshire.

Our ancestors in the 18th century and earlier were not exactly all fools or visionaries as many modern scientists imply. It is hoped that these comparative observations at widely separated dates may convince some of the authenticity of the reports.

On September 10, 1798, at 11:40 p.m. a body shaped like an apothecary's pestle, or cylinder, suddenly appeared out of a cloud over the town of Alnwick, Northumberland. It was seen by a schoolmaster and another man. It went in and out of the cloud and then a small (narrow, but long) streamer seemed to cut the "pestle" below its center. A cloud again hid it, and when the strange object reappeared, it looked like a hammer and the streamer had assumed two horns or prongs, like those of a fork. Again a cloud hid it. This time it reappeared with form of two half-moons, back to back, with a short thick luminous stream of some radiant energy flowing between the two globes. At each reappearance the phenomenon became more brilliant until the stars in the sky looked like mere specks. It was visible for five minutes and then vanished as suddenly as it had appeared.

I have not space to enumerate the many occasions in the 18th century, and in 1811 when, in the sky over various parts of England and over Armagh, Ireland, strange bright searchlights swept the sky. In 1811, people in Northern Ireland were so struck with these lights in the sky that they sent for fire engines. It may be noted that searchlights using acetylene, or other sources of illumination, were not known or used till a late date in the 19th century.

On the morning of August 12, 1883, Senor Jose A. Y. Bonilla, director of the Astronomical Observatory of Zacatecas, Mexico, was investigating sun spots when he was amazed to see pass, apparently across the solar disk, a small luminous body. Hardly had he recovered from his surprise when he was startled to see a succession of these same singular bodies passing over the solar disk. In two hours he counted 283 of them. Then clouds interrupted the view. Some were dark and black, others perfectly round.

They were travelling from east to west. Actually they were all luminous bodies but their light was absorbed by the actinic rays of the sun as they appeared to cross its disk. In point of fact, these mysterious travelers of outer space were traversing the vault of space between the moon and the earth.

On the following morning, he counted 1,166 of these mysterious bodies

still apparently crossing the solar disk!

What were these strange cosmic objects?

Only a fraction of what has every appearance of being an interplanetary army or fleet of some thousands of space ships were seen voyaging between the earth and the moon far out in space, on August 12 and 13, 1883. Camille Elamqaarion, the famous French astronomer, who saw the photographs made by Senor Bonilla, was mystified. He tentatively suggested insects, birds, or dust particles in the upper atmosphere. But Bonilla did not agree.

One thing is clear: these bodies, whatever they may have been or from whence they came, had — like many of the so-called "flying saucers" — no hostile intention regarding our own planet.

Again, on March 22, 1880, at Kattenau, Germany, about dawn, says *Nature* (London, Eng. scientific journal): "An enormous number of luminous bodies rose from the horizon and passed in a horizontal direction from east to west. They appeared in a zone or belt and shone with a remarkably brilliant light."

I have no space here to cite the numerous strange objects seen in the skies over land and sea in all parts of the world between 1830 and 1914. I can only refer briefly to the two occasions — one at Chisbury, Wilts, England, the other above Fort Worth, Texas — when a strange shadow was seen on the surface of clouds. It was cast by some unseen body above the clouds!

I say to the astronomers and the astrophysicists who talk of hysteria and hallucinations in face of the growing mass of evidence: "There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

"You admit *in theory* that there may be other inhabited worlds than ours but whenever you are confronted with evidence tending to confirm the theory, you scoff and sneer. Is it that you ignore and cast into the discard whatever does not suit your obsolescent theories of the nature of the cosmos? Is it that some of you, too, have seen strange phenomena in the skies but dare not, for professional reasons, report what you have seen?"

Flying saucers have been sighted in South America, as witness this report from Frank Edwards, radio pioneer turned prolific chronicler of the strange and unexplained.

UFOs OVER BRAZIL
By Frank Edwards
(1960)

Few countries have had as many dramatic and important saucer incidents as Brazil. I refer to them as incidents rather than mere sightings and there is good reason for my choice of words, as you shall see.

For a long time Brazil's policy toward Unidentified Flying Objects was one of open dealing. When the incidents occurred they investigated and made public statements based on logic and realism. Unidentified Flying Objects were officially identified as such. In the famous case at Campinas in 1953 the Brazilian government had the material analyzed and at a government press conference the sensational result of the metallurgists' studies was made public.

But all this has changed, and the change has hindered those who seek the answer to the UFOs. The change came about as the result of pressure from the government of the United States. The censorship that has kept the American public from knowing the truth about the UFOs now has been applied to the public of Brazil as well.

Yet, the brass curtain in the Brazilian government is by no means as impenetrable as in our own country. There are many in high places, key places, in Brazil who refuse to be muzzled; who dare to talk and, sometimes, who do not fear to be quoted. Thanks to this courageous minority it is still possible to acquire credible reports on some rather incredible incidents occurring in and around Brazil.

By all odds the best job of covering the UFO story in South America has been done by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) now based in Alamogordo, N. Mex., where some of its key members hold important positions at Holloman Air Force Base. APRO's contacts in South America are persons of proven trustworthiness. Their reports are painstaking and thorough. The result has provided APRO with a flow of information which could not otherwise have reached this country because of the blanket of silence imposed by the U. S. news services, for reasons best known to themselves.

The Campinas incident, to which I have referred, will bear a bit of

amplification, for those who missed it some months ago when I discussed it in the pages of Fate.

In September, 1953, the residents of Campinas were spectators of an almost unprecedented aerial show, the result of three disc shaped objects that came down out of the overcast and seemed likely to land. One of the discs was oscillating violently and was apparently in serious difficulties. The other two hovered nearby, seemingly powerless to assist their stricken companion. When the wobbling disc had reached a very low altitude, according to witnesses nearby, it began to spew out a trickle of some silvery substance which dribbled over rooftops, streets, sidewalks and even over some clothing hanging on a backyard line. A moment later the disc recovered control, ceased falling and began to move away. Seconds later the three objects rose in unison and vanished in the thick cloud layer. They were not seen again.

The substance which had spewed from the faltering disc was collected by authorities and turned over to the Brazilian government which had it analyzed. The metallurgist who conducted the analysis said, at a subsequent press conference, that the metal was actually pure tin, a conclusion already reached by U. S. metallurgists who also had examined a few ounces of it.

Pure tin does not in itself indicate any special purpose or quality, for we too can produce pure tin. The important aspect of the tin is that it admittedly put into the hands of both Brazil and the United States *physical evidence* of the controversial flying saucers. Whether this was the first time they had secured such evidence is not known—but this metal came from a flying saucer, it was officially identified as such by the Brazilian government and as such was turned over to representatives of the United States and accepted as such.

That was in 1953, and as late as the spring of 1960 the Air Force was still piously protesting that "No physical evidence of a flying saucer has ever been obtained". Their imagination is evidently stronger than their memory.

By conducting a quiet little investigation of my own here in Washington, I have learned that subsequent to the Campinas incident of 1953 there was considerable correspondence with the Brazilian officials relative to the desirability of releasing information on Unidentified Flying Objects. The talks began with the Brazilian Ambassador here and were later extended to the Brazilian government through communications sent in diplomatic pouches and in the final stages by direct consultation between our Air Attaché in Brazil and the policy-making members of the government in that

country. Whatever the outcome of the talks, it could hardly have been all that the U. S. Air Force desired for, in spite of lip service in the form of official Brazilian orders to refrain from discussion of sightings, the leaks have been many.

There was, for example, the case of the object which hovered over an Army factory near Rio. It was first spotted about 11:00 P.M. by an employee of a bank who was resting on his veranda. He noticed a large, egg-shaped object motionless in the sky, at an altitude which he estimated as being under 1000 feet. The thing was not luminous, he said, but was illuminated on the lower side by the reflection of the powerful flood lights around the Army plant. The banker called his wife to bring her camera and she snapped two pictures with a small reflex camera, then took a time exposure, which turned out to be fortunate as the first two frames were badly under-exposed. The third frame, however, showed considerable detail of the object, which fled from the scene after being in view about 10 minutes, according to the bank employee and his wife.

The Brazilian Air Force asked for and received the negatives. After lengthy study they pronounced them genuine and free from fraud—but the negatives were not returned to their rightful owner. Evidently the Brazilian officials had heeded *some* of the advice of the USAF!

Dr. Olavo Fontes, who acts as APRO's special correspondent in Brazil, reports that he was able to get a duplicate negative from the original taken by the bank employee. Although this left much to be desired from the standpoint of photographic analysis, it still enabled him to discern several interesting points on the object in question.

For one thing, under considerable magnification, a protuberant of some sort is faintly visible at the bottom of the object; he speculates that this may be an extension of some turret on the other side of the thing. No window slits are visible but three faint dome-like things were detectable on the upper hemisphere.

Dr. Fontes quotes Colonel Adel Oliviera, former chief of the Brazilian UFO investigators, as saying that this particular photo was unquestionably authentic and one of the best in the files.

Another military spokesman who seemed to have little fear of reprisal is identified as Major Magalhaes Motta who is regarded as an authority on UFOs. Dr. Fontes reports that Major Motta found the Rio object to be identical to two other UFOs which had been watched by numerous military

men through binoculars as the things hovered for three hours over Gravatai Air Force Base in October, 1954.

The outspoken Brazilian military men are in marked contrasts to their tight-lipped counterparts in our own military ranks. Our freedom of speech is not as free as theirs, evidently.

The Brazilian government in 1953 officially identified the tin found at Campinas as debris from a so-called flying saucer.

In 1954 Major Motta and Colonel Oliviera identified the object that hovered over the Rio Army plant as a flying saucer similar to others that had been seen over another military installation.

In contrast, when the officers and crew of a Nike base near Washington reported that a glowing object had come in low over the trees, under the radar beams, touched down and moved on, the official explanation was that they had seen a light on the side of a barn! Perhaps these flying barns are causing some of our unexplained air tragedies?

For some reason not fully understood, Brazil seems to have many UFO sightings, including many of the type seen over Rio. "Like a baseball with a belt around it!" as one witness said of the object he watched.

Perhaps the things visit Brazil because the Brazilian Air Force does not try to shoot them down, which seems an excellent reason. At any rate, the UFOs have made many appearances in Brazil and, in the case of the one which appeared over the island of Trinidad, have submitted to considerable picture taking in excellent light.

The Brazilian Navy school-ship *Almirante Saldanha* was converted into a hydrographic research vessel in 1957 and assigned to conducting studies around the island of Trinidad in connection with the International Geophysical Year—a broad title which covered a multitude of activities never reported to the public.

There were 300 persons aboard the ship as it lay off Trinidad on January 16, 1958. Included in the list of those on board was a former newspaper photographer Almiro Barauna, who had been invited to assist the Navy men in some underwater photography.

The magazine *O Cruzeiro* carried an account of the incident quoting an interview with Barauna. He told the magazine that at about 12:15 P.M. Captain Viegas (a retired Air Force officer) called to him to look at a bright object in the sky, northeast of the ship. While Barauna was trying to locate the thing the ship's dentist came racing up, yelling and pointing in the same

direction. A moment later Barauna says he spotted the object by the light that glinted from it as it moved swiftly toward Gala Peak at the tip of the island.

He had a Rolleiflex camera dangling from a strap around his neck and quickly set it at infinity and began snapping pictures. He made two exposures before the object disappeared behind the peak, accidentally over-exposing because the camera was set at f.8 and 1/125th of a second, far too much light under the circumstances. Barauna got two more snaps as the object changed course and began to climb away from the island and back toward the east. Then, because of the pushing and shoving he was getting in the excited crowd, Barauna missed his last chances at more photos. He had shot six pictures in about 14 seconds.

The Brazilian Navy subsequently inspected the negatives and the camera. The official summation was that the object had been moving at a speed near 900 kilometers per hour. (This is approximately 569 miles per hour). The object itself, Navy officials admitted, was identical with a picture taken with a box camera in the hands of a Naval officer in Trinidad.

About a month after the incident the Brazilian Navy issued a statement in which it merely said that photographs of an unidentified flying object had been taken by a civilian photographer while aboard the ship *Almirante Saldanha* and the Navy had no other connection with the incident.

While the Brazilian Navy was treading water Captain J. T. Viegas, B. A. F. Retired, was describing the incident to newsmen. He said, "The object was shining with a phosphorescent glow which was brighter than the moon, even in daylight. It appeared to be about the size of the full moon and as it tilted it revealed its shape to be that of a flattened sphere encircled at the equator by a thick band or platform. Its speed was about 700 miles per hour as it went over the horizon."

The flattened sphere over Trinidad and the object over the Army installation in Rio bear considerable resemblance, of course. They not only looked alike but they approached military installations without any visible hesitation. To judge from the various accounts of the excitement aboard the Navy IGY ship, the UFO had little to be afraid of. The photographer who took the pictures narrowly missed being shoved overboard by the screaming jostling crowd. Captain Viegas says Barauna was so jittery he could not take the film out of his camera for 15 minutes after the UFO had vanished.

It was through the patient efforts of Dr. Fontes that APRO was able to get the picture of the Rio object and the details in the Trinidad case, including the

full translation of the interviews.

The Brazilian government's official statements in the Trinidad case are a far cry from the open and candid treatment accorded to the Campinas and Rio cases a few years before. They evidently could not bring themselves to brush the matter aside by calling it a runaway weather balloon or a temperature inversion, or even a wayward seagull—standard operating procedure for the USAF—but merely issued the non-committal statement that the thing had happened; the pictures had been taken! If these statements added nothing to your information at least they did not insult your common sense.

The shape of the objects involved in the Rio and Trinidad incidents may be of more than passing interest. You recall that it was a giant metallic sphere which Captain Thomas Mantell reported he was chasing near Fort Knox, Ky., on that fateful afternoon in January, 1948. So far as my records show there were no other sightings of spherical UFO in the northern hemisphere with the exception of one which reportedly sank into the water of a remote Canadian lake, also in 1948.

For the most part the sightings have been of disc-shaped craft with shallow domes or cigar-shaped craft are occasionally reported.

Brazil has had both the spherical and the disc-shaped objects and has had them frequently. It was a disc-shaped thing which newspaper photographer Ed Keffel snapped over the beach near Rio de Janiero on May 7, 1959. Four days later Mrs. Paul Trent, a farm wife near McMinnville, Ore., snapped two pictures of an apparently identical UFO hovering over her fields.

I mention these things because three distinct types of UFO's have been seen and photographed. I have found no credible witnesses who have reported seeing two different types *in the same area at the same time.* This may be sheer coincidence and it may not. It may indicate that they are not friendly or perhaps not compatible, for reasons unknown to us.

Whatever they are, wherever they come from, Brazil has had her share of both the spheres and the discs. And to her credit she has refused to deceive her people concerning them. Brazil may not openly categorize the UFO's for what they are, but she leaves enough loopholes so that those who really want to know the truth, like Dr. Fontes, may find it.

It is a commendable policy, especially since it was developed under pressure and is maintained under difficulty.

That the Pacific Rim is no stranger to accounts of mysterious flying objects is proved by this classic account by Fate Magazine correspondent Samuel Norman.

UFOs OVER JAPAN
By Samuel Norman
(1956)

In Tokyo, Japan, within the short span of one week two events of critical significance occurred. The first concerned mystery flashes in the sky and the second was a fantastic glowing object which was seen to fall into the ocean.

Neither, however, received much attention from the United States press nor from the Japanese papers. Despite this omission, the sightings were important to those who feel such things are of more consequence than most people will admit.

The first incident occurred late in the evening of January 8 over the western coast of Japan. A U.S. Air Force jet pilot on regular patrol duty radioed back to his base that he had seen what looked like "four explosions" in the sky. The first flash was estimated to have come at about 9:35 p.m.

They continued intermittently until the last flash at 11:31 p.m. The Air Force base at Nagoya relayed the reports on to the headquarters of the Far East A.F. in Tokyo. There they could not be explained on the basis of current operations.

Japanese civilian authorities were queried. They, too, had no explanation. As a result, the Air Force ordered a second plane into the air to assist in "tracking down the flashes." This was at 1:30 a.m.

The sightings were pin-pointed to an area near Komatsu, a small town about 150 miles northwest of Tokyo on the Sea of Japan. The Air Force made no further announcements regarding findings, if any, made that night.

Hiroshi Oshima, a police official in Komatsu, however, shrugged off the flashes as being neither new nor mysterious. In that part of Japan, he said, such phenomena are called "yuki haminari" — snow thunder. Oshima explained casually that the local citizenry always see flashes in the sky when it snows at night.

This off-hand statement seemed to settle the matter.

Just a week later another incident occurred about 1000 miles west of Komatsu. This one is unique in UFO sightings for two reasons.

One: it was seen by a large number of witnesses including civilian and American personnel.

Two: the object was under direct and relatively close observation for about 90 minutes!

The incident began about 8 p.m. at Pusan, Korea, on January 15. The object was described to military authorities as being "about the size of a large washtub and emitting a blue-gray glow." It was seen falling into the water about 50 yards off-shore near Heunde.

It was early enough in the evening to attract the attention of a large number of Korean townsfolk. They reported that the glow continued for about an hour and a half before the object "apparently sank into the sea."

By this time Korean National Police arrived at the scene and they, in turn, alerted U.S. Military Police. Cpl. Ben Elliot, an M.P. on patrol duty that night, was on the scene quickly enough to observe the object floating in the water for almost an hour.

He described its glow as being similar to the flames from burning alcohol or benzene. The glow, he said, appeared to be about the size of a large washtub but the object itself could not be seen on the surface of the water.

None of the witnesses expressed any desire to row out to the object for a closer look. As a result, it eventually sank out of sight into the sea's depths without being inspected.

At this writing, no further reports concerning the object have been made. It was thought that Pusan University staff members might arrange for divers to attempt to recover remains of the object. If they did, their findings remain as much a mystery as the object itself.

Aime Michel, who held diplomas in psychology and philosophy was an executive with the French Radio Broadcasting network. He was also the first, and most famous, of the French Ufologists in the years before Jacques Vallee. UFO sightings were no strangers to citizens of Europe as he shows here.

UFOs OVER EUROPE
By Aime Michel
(1957)

I have related in detail elsewhere many flying saucer sightings in France. Before continuing my rapid recollection of these flying saucer sightings, I must underline two important points.

Although more numerous in France because of the size of its territory (it is generally not known in America that the French territory is second in Europe only to Russia) the aforementioned sightings were also numerous in Switzerland, Southern Germany and only a little less numerous in Spain and Portugal. In this series of articles I decided to choose only a few and analyze them to a great degree. A more thorough examination would require a book —which I am publishing in the United States.

To give you an idea of the real number of sightings in Occidental Europe during this period here is the balance sheet for just one day, and only for France which is about one-fourth the size of the United States. I have chosen September 24 at random. This day had neither more nor less sightings than any other day in the months of September, October, and the first part of November. The maximum number of sightings was reached in mid-October.

South-West of France: "Three flying cigars" were observed at Bayonne. There were a great number of witnesses, one of them a policeman.

East: Six flying objects were observed at Nancy between 4:30 and 5:30. There were numerous witnesses, among them all the workers at one factory. One object was seen at Epinol and one at Dole.

Bourgogne: One object was observed by two policemen near Digon.

Center: An object was seen at Puy, one at Langeac, one at Clermont-Ferrand, one at Gelles and one at Vichy (the last three observations perhaps concerned the same object).

The landings (real or supposed) were no more exclusive to France than the regular observation.

For example, in Italy witnesses claim to have seen an object shaped like a disc land on the terrace of a famous writer, Curzio Malaparte, who was not at home at this time. But rather than a landing, I prefer to describe here a classic observation which is unusual because of the number of witnesses —including

all the star-gazers of Rome and its environs, officers, aviators and, to top it off, a radar station of the regional control.

The "object" appeared to the first witnesses at 4:45 P. M. on September 17. It was seen also over the 10 mile area from the capital to the Ciampino airport and then, a little later, out to sea.

It was first seen in the form of a brilliant light. In Rome, some say it was immobile, others swear it moved, this movement being more or less rapid depending on the witness. At first sight these Romans thought it was an ordinary meteorological balloon.

Some newspapermen called the airport at Ciampino. They were told that the military command of this airport had been following the movement of the object since 4:45. Their informant added that the object was shaped like a "half cigar" and was flying at an altitude of less than one mile and at a speed possibly up to 160 to 175 miles per hour. As it moved a wake of luminous smoke came out from its back point. At one time it made a dive of over 1,000 feet and regained altitude by going immediately from a horizontal to a vertical position. This is to say, the end from which the smoke was issuing pointed straight down.

At this moment the military commander at Ciampino alerted the military control station at Pratica di Mare, a little village on the ocean about 19 miles from Rome where the strongest radar equipment in this region is located.

The observers at Pratica di Mare were able to find the saucer on their screen and watched it for 20 minutes. They were able to distinguish a sort of antenna attached in the middle of the machine.

At 6:28 P.M. all the witnesses saw the saucer disappear rapidly towards the sea in a north-westerly direction.

The Astronomical Observatory at Monte-Mario saw nothing. Nevertheless the astronomers claimed it could not have been a meteorite, because of the long duration of the observation.

Lieutenant Bruno Guistiniani, of the military command at the airport of Ciampino, was on duty at the time of the sighting and observed the phenomenon closely. He made the following statement to the press the next day, "This sighting is both undeniable and inexplicable. The foreign object (to give it a name) was able to move rapidly and also to stay completely immobile during long minutes. It gave off a very brilliant, silver-colored light. That is all we can say."

Next, Lieutenant Guistiniani expressed his skepticism of an article,

published the previous week by Hans Haffner, German astronomer, in the German Weekly, *Die Zeit* which explained flying saucers by calling them balls of lightning. The Lieutenant reiterated the details of the sighting—the well-delineated shape, jets of smoke, antenna, etc.—and said he felt they were scarcely characteristic of a ball of lightning.

This same September 17, a few minutes before the observation made in Rome, two hunters from Pittigliano, in Tuscany, Italy, also witnessed an unusual aerial phenomenon.

According to their story the two men, Mr. Bacherini and Mr. Formiconi, first heard a series of explosions! Looking skyward they saw a "round, white" flying object which was moving slowly across the sky and oscillating gently from side to side. The object accelerated and disappeared over the horizon in a south-westerly direction.

Was the saucer at Pittigliano, the same as the one seen in Rome? The descriptions are not the same. On the other hand, the time and the movements of the saucers do coincide. Rome is south of Tuscany.

The saucer seen in Rome disappeared about 6:28 P.M.

In France a whole series of UFO observations followed on that same day after 7:15, 45 minutes later. The greatest number of witnesses reporting sightings were in the central portion of the country, especially at Clermont-Ferrand, capital of Auvergne.

"Last Friday I was at my home on Champfleury Street, in Clermont-Ferrand," one man reports. "Looking out the window about 7:15 I saw a small, rose cloud above Puy de Dome. Its shape intrigued me. I used the electric wires which cross the sky outside my window as guide lines and was able to see that the cloud was moving.

"I went to get my little telescope which magnifies about 25 times. I didn't take time to stand it up and as a result my sight was a little unstable but I was completely convinced that it was a flying saucer. I saw a large black point preceding a luminous tail. It was not possible for me to evaluate its distance and speed.

"I thought at first it was a jet whose wake was illuminated by the sunset. Nevertheless, I was still perplexed because the wake was exceedingly luminous and, above all, the object and its wake disappeared so suddenly."

Ten other persons reported these same details! Five of them (who did not know each other and were in different places at the time of their observations) were very precise. They said the object resembled a sort of

cigar.

An engineer and ex-artillery observer said that at the moment he and his wife first saw the strange object they were in his car, in the region of Clermont-Ferrand which is situated amid a chain of extinct volcanoes, very mountainous, with uneven roads. The engineer and his wife noticed the object in front of them. They stopped the car in order to see better but the object disappeared behind a mountain.

In order to continue to observe the saucer the engineer started up again and, after several turns in the road, he and his wife were able to watch this UFO for about six more minutes. He thought at first it was a type of comet. But when he read in the papers that a similar shape had flown over Rome three-quarters of an hour previously he decided what they had seen was a flying saucer.

But all this is nothing! In fact, the collective hallucination born in Rome that afternoon (with the complicity of radar) continued along the same geodesic line to reach a dramatic conclusion near Senon in Vienna, 125 miles northwest of Clermont-Ferrand.

Around 10:30 P.M. Mr. Yves David, resident of Pontgame, in Vienne, was riding his bicycle on the road from Vouneuil to Senon. The night was dark because the moon had not yet come out. Also, the region is wooded and the road has hedges on both sides. Mr. David was having some trouble seeing the road which was illuminated only by the feeble bicycle light.

When he arrived close to Pontereau, not far from Senon, he suddenly was overcome by a strange, unpleasant sensation. All over his body he felt a peculiar tingling "as if I had been electrocuted", he said later. Not feeling able to pedal any more he stopped and got off his bicycle. While he had been bicycling his attention had been concentrated by the small light given off by his bicycle lamp. Now with this light gone he was able, after a few moments, to look around and to see a little farther. The prickling sensation had not disappeared. In fact, he was paralyzed.

It was then that he saw, not far from him, sitting on the road, a strange object whose dimensions he evaluated (as well as possible in the semi-darkness) to be about 11 feet long and three and a half feet wide.

Stupefied, unable to move, he stood contemplating the object. Then he saw a silhouette detach itself from the dark mass and come toward him. It was a small being, much smaller than he. The being came up to Mr. David, touched his shoulder and emitted an incomprehensible sound and turned back

to the UFO, where he disappeared.

Some seconds later the dark mass began to give off a greenish luminosity, and then flew off at lightning speed, disappearing in the sky above the trees.

Mr. David now recovered the use of his body. Trembling, he remounted his bicycle and pedaled home to Montgame where he told his story.

Remember that at the time he told his story the sightings at Rome and Clermont-Ferrand were not yet known nor reported!

Perhaps you think the most probable explanation of Mr. David's experience is that he had an hallucination. I don't reject this explanation but wish to point out that it presents a problem.

Can we say that all these observations of saucer landings, these meetings with "little men" are the result of a psychosis? Did Mr. David see what he saw because he had read about previous meetings in the papers? However, if we carry this backward in time we must eventually come up against the old question of which came first the chicken or the egg. And finally, to draw away from the problem without solving it, we must note that the stories show noticeable differences. The only long descriptions given on September 17 were those of Mr. Mazaud and Mr. Dewilde exactly one week before. And Mr. Mazaud did not see the object on the ground but only reported that the being "seemed to kneel" and that a few seconds later he saw a dark mass go up into the air between the tree branches.

Mr. David did not see the supposed pilot kneel but observed that the UFO was not more than three and a half feet high. We are free to deduct that the "pilot" Mr. Mazaud met had to bend over to enter a saucer not more than three and a half feet high—but this is reasoning. And reasoning is not what causes hallucinations—it is images.

In fact, the differences we notice between the stories correspond exactly with the methods critical historians use to verify an assumption. Historians always suspect a case reported in identical terms by several sources because they say that this leads to the possibility that they copied each other or they all copied a common source. Whereas, a real case is always reported in slightly different terms by the various witnesses.

This very method of comparing exact similarities was used successfully by the police during this month of September, 1954, to reveal a hoax. Four young men of Amienois reported to the police a UFO observation made at Estrees Denicourt the day after the affair at Acheux. They were unmasked after a week's investigation because their sighting was so exactly similar to

the sighting of Mr. Renard and Mr. Degillerboz. The police found the coincidences too perfect and finally obtained a confession from the three jokers that they had invented the incident. They were arraigned and condemned for perjury.

This affair also proves how seriously the police investigations were conducted during this 1954 period.

It is also reasoning (and not imagery) which connects the paralysis of Mr. Dewilde and that of Mr. David. Mr. Dewilde thought he was paralyzed by a projection of light, whereas, Mr. Dewilde's case is the "paralyzing ray". Mr. David seems to have seen nothing of this "ray". To deduce the second case from the first by psychological hallucination one must suppose that Mr. David said to himself, consciously or not: "Dewilde saw a light and was paralyzed; but the two phenomenon are related only by coincidence in time. Therefore, I can be paralyzed without seeing a light."

This line of thought is not psychotic.

If we wish to find coincidence of images between the case of Mr. David and another case we have to cross the Atlantic and remember the story told by Ruppelt in his book *Report on the UFO's,* chapter on Hoax or Horror. Here, too, the Boy Scout leader felt a prickling and tingling in the dark before seeing anything.

But—the story of the American Boy Scout has been known in France only since the spring of 1956!

J. Antonio Huneeus is a Chilean-American science writer who researched flying saucer encounters on a grant from Laurence Rockefeller. Here is his own report of Russian UFOs and UFO research.

UFOs OVER RUSSIA
By J. Antonio Huneeus
(1994)

Aura-Z, the slick new illustrated quarterly journal of ufological and paranormal phenomena published by the Moscow-based Scientific Research Center, fills an important gap. It makes quality papers and reports about anomalous phenomena drawn from the vast, rich Russian literature available in English.

Until recently, normal exchanges between Russian and foreign researchers were prevented by the Cold War and language barriers. Publication of UFO and paranormal literature was heavily censored by the Soviet communist regime.

Articles by Felix Zigel, Alexander Kazantsev, and a few others, dealing with subjects like UFO sightings in the USSR, the 1908 Tunguska explosion, and the theory of ancient astronauts, had tremendous impact in the West when they slipped through censorship—either by design or accident—and appeared in official magazines like *Sputnik* or *Soviet Life* for foreign consumption.

There are few sources of information about Russian ufology available in the U.S. For years there was only a single book, *UFOs From Behind the Iron Curtain,* by Ion Hobana and Julien Weverbergh, a Rumanian and a Belgian researcher, respectively, published in 1974.

The new and warmer climate of *perestroika* and *glasnost* in the late 1980s led to an opening of ufology that exploded in an unprecedented wave of public interest by 1989.

In 1991 I edited an anthology of Russian articles on NLA (the Russian word for UFO) and other subjects like cryptozoology and ancient mysteries entitled *A Study Guide to UFOs, Psychic & Paranormal Phenomena in the USSR,* (Abelard).

A year later, Jacques Vallee published his *UFO Chronicles in the Soviet Union—A Cosmic Samizdat* (Ballantine Books), which covered the celebrated Voronezh flap of 1989, the anomalous zone in Perm (also known as M Triangle), the Tunguska explosion, and other cases.

By the time the book came out, the Soviet Union had been replaced by the

current Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Considering the enormous territory and the human and technical resources of the former USSR, the number of articles in English on Russian cases is unfortunately small.

Russian Ufology Research Center

Besides several interviews with leading Russian ufologists like Dr. Vladimir Azhazha, Marina Popovich, Vladimir Avinsky and Sergei Bulantsev that I published in *UFO Universe* magazine and elsewhere, the only steady source has been Paul Stonehill of the Russian Ufology Research Center in LA. His articles covering the NLO beat in the CIS appear regularly in *UFO* magazine and other publications.

Stonehill told me in a recent telephone interview that his aims are "to help Russian and CIS ufologists get information from the West that is not based on tabloid news, and also for them to be able to express their opinions in the West."

Dr. Richard Haines, a retired NASA scientist from the San Francisco Bay Area and well-known expert on UFO/aircraft incidents, has also taken a keen interest in the CIS. Together with Dr. Azhazha of the Soyuz UFO Center (an officially sanctioned network of organizations in Russia and CIS countries presided over by cosmonaut and Major-General Pavel Popovich) in Moscow, and Dr. Vladimir Rubtsov in the Ukraine, they formed the Joint USA-CIS Aerial Anomaly Federation in 1991, of which Haines is the American director.

"We all believed that the concept of perestroika was valid for UFO studies, and ... a number of us agreed to begin to work together, to communicate more effectively and to share information, and that led to the formation of the Federation," Haines said in a recent phone interview.

Besides Russia and the U.S., Latvia, the Ukraine, and Kazakhstan are currently represented.

The Federation has translated some interesting general and technical reports, including two volumes of Zigel's classic UFO studies. There are also plans for future symposia and field expeditions to anomalous zones in places like Perm, Chelyabinsk and Dalnegorsk.

Unfortunately, the Federation's translations and monographs are not yet available to the public because, as Haines explained, "We are not in the publishing business, these are done entirely for the benefit of our affiliated

organizations in America."

Within this context, the appearance of the slick *Aura-Z* journal is a welcome addition. I have reviewed the first two issues and am impressed with the contents and presentation. They are better than the standard Russian popular publications on the anomalous, which are often contaminated with tabloid sensationalism and a lack of critical judgment—something affecting many American publications, too.

Edited by mathematician Alexander Avshalumov, the founder and director of the Scientific Research Center *Aura-Z*, the journal offers a wide variety of articles on ufology, bioenergoinformatics (in other words, ESP), dowsing (also known in Russia as biolocation), cryptozoology (Bigfoot et. al.), alternative medicine and science, and so on—the type of subjects that are of interest to *Fate* readers.

In keeping with this column's theme, however, we will stay in the ufological arena, although *Aura-Z* offers many other interesting articles with titles like *The Media, Government Departments and Psychotronics Weapons, Laws of the Spiritual World,* or *Biogravitation, Biovacuum and Biofield.*

The history of NLO research is told from various perspectives by Lev Chulkov, Vadim Orlov, Tatyana Konstantinova-Zigel, the daughter of the late Professor Felix Zigel of the Moscow Aviation Institute, who is acknowledged as the father of Russian ufology, and others.

When Zigel, together with a few others like engineer Yuri Fomin and polar aviator Valentin Akkuratov, began to investigate and talk about UFOs in the late '50s and early '60s, they encountered a chilling response from the Communist political and scientific establishment. After submitting a report to the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Zigel was told that "in the U.S. investigation of the problem of UFOs is, in fact, a consequence of the atmosphere of military psychosis."

Flying saucers were officially a politically incorrect topic.

Nyet! Yet the same *apparatchiks* that declared UFOs to be the product of a decadent capitalistic society or CIA propaganda were conducting secret research through the KGB and various intelligence departments of the Soviet military.

The demise of the USSR has produced something that ten years ago would have seemed unthinkable—the declassification and literal sale of government documents of all kinds—from nuclear disasters and sunken submarines to UFO reports and psychotronic research.

Well-known TV reporter and researcher George Knapp, and Bryan Gresh of the Altamira Communications Group in Las Vegas, Nev., visited Moscow in March 1993, purchasing a file of approximately 386 separate sightings reported to the Ministry of Defense.

They interviewed a retired Russian Colonel, Boris Sokolov, who had directed a specific UFO collection effort between 1978 and 1988. "In essence," said Knapp in an interview, "an order went off from the Ministry of Defense to every unit in the Soviet military empire to fully investigate, report on, and file any UFO sightings, so in essence the entire Soviet military was like a giant UFO listening post."

Knapp and Gresh also met the officer in charge of the current UFO study code-named *Thread-3* and several other scientists. The information they received will be presented as a series of videotape documentaries under production by Altamira. A fascinating preliminary report on *Soviet UFO Secrets* by Bryan Gresh was published in the October 1993 *MUFON UFO Journal.*

Moreover, Stalin had his top rocket designer, Sergei Korolev, who later launched the highly successful space program that put the first satellite and the first man in orbit, to look into the matter of UFOs as early as 1947. This revelation came through Professor Valery Burdakov, a graduate of the Moscow Aviation Institute who worked with Korolev.

Burdakov heard the story from Korolev himself and the details from one of his top assistants, M. Tikhonarov. In an interview published in *Aura-Z,* Burdakov said that, "in 1947 some high-ranking government official summoned Korolev to his office. He referred to Stalin's orders. He pointed to a heap of foreign materials on ufology and suggested that Korolev should analyse them in three days' time. Some translators were to help him. It was necessary to answer only one question—whether these mysterious objects posed a threat to the state."

Korolev had to study in a special room in the Kremlin and was not allowed to take home any papers. "After examining the materials, he reported in person to Stalin himself," continued Burdakov. "He said that UFOs were not weapons of a potential enemy and they posed no real threat to the country. But the phenomenon itself evidently exists."

Stalin thanked Korolev and told him, "he had consulted other noted scientists and they had all made similar conclusions." In 1990, Prof. Burdakov published an article in the magazine, *Teknika Molodezhi*

(Technology Youth) about experimental disk-shaped craft in the USSR, specifically the Diskoplan-1 in 1950 and the Diskoplan-2 in 1962.

Burdakov was also interviewed by the Altamira group, who maintain that some of the information in Stalin's hands "was gleaned from reports of Soviet operatives in place in New Mexico at the time of the alleged crash" in Roswell.

Aura-Z's first issue published several formerly secret documents from the KGB archives, including the radio transcript of exchanges between an air traffic controller in Sochi and three airliners in 1989.

Also included were sightings by an Air Force Colonel and a Captain Third Rank in 1985; a unit commander's report of systematic sightings of "ball-shaped UFO flights" by several observation posts in the Shiveluch Volcano vicinity in Kamchatka, between December 1987 and September 1988.

Finally, the most interesting case was a multiple-witness close encounter of the first kind at an army base near Kasputin Yar in the Astrakhan Region on July 28, 1989.

Depositions by Ensign V. Voloshin, Communications Officer-on-Duty, Private D. Tishchayev, Private G. Kulik and Ensign A. Levin are enclosed. The most detailed one is by Voloshin stating that "the object flew over the unit's logistics yard and moved in the direction of the rocket weapons depot, 300 meters away. It hovered over the depot at a height of 20 meters. The UFO's hull shone with a dim green light that looked like phosphorous. It was a disk, four to five meters in diameter, with a semispherical top." Voloshin also described how "a bright beam appeared from the bottom of the disc, where the flash had been before."

The UFO moved to a nearby railway station, "but soon it returned to the rocket weapons depot and hovered over it at a height of 60 to 70 meters." The sighting lasted two hours, until the object "flew in the direction of the town of Akhtubinsk and disappeared from sight."

This brings to mind a number of similar incidents of UFOs hovering over missile facilities in the U.S. and elsewhere. One famous declassified USAF teletype described an intruder demonstrating "a clear intent in the weapons storage area" of Loring AFB in Maine during a UFO flap over several Strategic Air Command bases in the fall of 1975.

In the December 1980 incidents near the NATO bases of Bentwaters and Woodbridge in England, Colonel Halt and other military witnesses also described the beams directed at restricted weapons areas.

Similar reports were disclosed by Anatoly Listratov, an All-Union Astronomical and Geodesic Society scientist, who has conducted extensive research on UFO military cases. In a 1989 *Socialist Industry* newspaper interview, he spoke of an incident at a missile base when a security patrol was sent by vehicle to investigate a UFO that had broken light posts outside the base.

As they approached the site, "suddenly the motor stopped" and the guards had to continue on foot when, "about 200 meters high, a dark disk moved slowly and noiselessly, emanating beams," said Listratov, adding that "one of the beams moved along the Earth's surface near a rocket launch site...

"The next day, the same incident occurred. The only difference was that the disc moved in the reverse direction...their security devices, which were very reliable, did not work during either incident."

Finally, Listratov added that "they assured me that when they started to work with rockets, the UFOs were always there. And they had beams of light projecting down."

Ray Stanford devoted his life to the search for hard evidence that UFOs are real, capturing them on film and with scientific instruments. Affidavits from the two peace officers involved accompanied the original appearance of this article which describes a saucer sighting deep in the heart of Texas.

UFOs OVER TEXAS
By Ray Stanford
(1956)

For the past year and a half I had had a great desire to contact a being on a flying saucer. For some time I had been convinced that the flying saucers are space ships, piloted by friendly beings from another world.

I awoke on the morning of November 6, 1954, without the slightest knowledge that before the day was over this long-held hope would become a reality.

This was the day that John McCoy and I were to go to Brownsville, Tex., to meet with a research group there. We expected to form the Texas Flying Saucer Research Society.

We left for Brownsville around 10:00 that morning. Noon found us in Brownsville. The meeting, at first, seemed something of a disappointment. The Brownsville society's representation amounted to seven. Only two of us had come from Corpus Christi, making the total attendance nine. But enthusiasm is what counts, and this group seemed to have it.

As the meeting progressed it occurred to me that the group might like to go to Padre Island that night in order to attempt to contact someone aboard one of the flying saucers. I asked if anyone objected to going to Padre Island. Immediately John's hand rose. Then, as if some force governed him, he lowered his hand. He told me later that some force over which he had no control had made him lower his arm.

Neither John nor I had ever been to the south end of the island and we expected to enjoy the trip even if no saucers were sighted.

After the meeting we all went outside and stood talking on the lawn. Then we separated, agreeing to meet again at 6:30 that night. However, only eight of us returned.

At about 6:45 we started out. We carried overcoats that one of the Brownsville group had brought along. It gets quite cool on November nights on the Padre beach when the breeze blows off the Gulf of Mexico.

All eight of us climbed into one car. We arrived at Padre Island about 7:30 P.M. and proceeded up the beach in a northerly direction for about five miles. We were afraid to risk driving further up this beach at night. It is not easy,

once one gets stuck, to get an automobile out of this type of sand.

We decided that since eight is a rather large group for something of this nature, it might aid our mental concentration if we divided into two groups. It was decided that one group should go about one mile north of the car and the other about the same distance south. My group of four went north.

Acting on the theory that any race advanced enough to construct ships for inter-planetary travel would also be advanced in mental powers, our two groups entered into deep concentration. At intervals we temporarily ceased concentration so that if some being inside a space ship were concentrating also our minds would be able to receive the message.

Suddenly a strange feeling engulfed the entire group. This feeling was unlike anything else that I have ever experienced. And the whole group received this strange manifestation at the same time!

A picture passed through my mind. The thought image was as distinct as is concrete reality. I saw mentally, a large, brilliant, white globe of light moving rapidly across the sky; acting as a signal from the space people.

I described this to my group. They were undecided what to think.

Then it happened!!

Exactly as I had described, a white globe of great brilliance and size appeared parallel with the horizon. It followed a "zigzag" path for quite a distance and then slowed and disappeared.

We felt that at last we had done it! This was the signal of a space ship from another world. We had established contact!

We wondered if our other group had seen the signal. We decided to go back down the beach and see if they had.

Not only had they seen it, but one member of their group also had received the telepathic message of its coming and had described it to the rest of his group before its appearance, just as I had done.

Surely there could be no doubt now, this was a signal from a space ship. But what did it mean? Was it merely to let us know that we were in contact? While the eight of us stood together, we all had the same thought simultaneously — a space ship would approach about 11:00 o'clock. It was then 10.55 P.M.

Shortly a glowing object appeared out over the gulf. It was evident first at exactly the place where the signal had disappeared.

It came closer and closer. We could distinguish a dome on top and a flat bottom. We no longer felt the cold wind nor heard the roar of the gulf as this

other-world craft approached.

I had thought it was too much to hope for, but there it was, glowing in the darkness before our very eyes!

It did not come toward us, however, but approached the car. We started for the car in order to meet the ship there. But as we moved rapidly toward the car, the space ship began moving away! It disappeared completely from sight. Our hopes fell. But then we understood. Down the beach a car was approaching. (Several times automobiles came into sight down the beach and each time the craft mysteriously disappeared.) After the cars left the craft would come toward us again. Finally it stopped and began to hover. This time it did not disappear even though a car was coming down the beach. We could not understand why the craft did not disappear again.

The car drove up to us, its lights still on. It was the *State Highway Patrol!* Our first thought was to keep them from seeing the saucer. John McCoy and David Piller walked over to the right side of the car hoping to block their view of the object. At the same time I ran to the driver's side. A State Highway Patrolman was driving. Inside with him were two deputy sheriffs.

The officer asked me what we were doing. (I suppose we were suspicious looking characters in the long overcoats and with no fishing tackle.)

I replied, "We are conducting experiments."

"What kind of experiments?" he asked.

When I answered, "Scientific experiments," he really "blew his top."

All three officers got out. I received the definite impression that it would not be long before they shoved us into the police car if we did not tell them what we were doing.

So I told them, "We came out here to contact flying saucers which we know are space ships from other worlds, and we have made contact."

They didn't crack a smile.

Then I said, "In fact," (and I pointed to the space ship which was hovering behind and to the right of them,) "you can see it hovering there right now."

The officers turned and gasped in amazement.

Someone handed the highway patrolman John's eight power binoculars. The officer staggered over to the side of the patrol car and leaned on it. I have never seen anyone so astonished.

The three officers who had come in the patrol car are Steve Woods, a deputy sheriff; Don Hoyd, highway patrolman; and Ray Hoyd, deputy sheriff, father of Don Hoyd.

About this time Don Hoyd cut off the lights of the patrol car. Without taking his eyes or the binoculars off the craft for one second, he just reached through the open window and cut off the lights. He seemed to be speechless.

While we were talking to Ray Hoyd, his son kept shouting that the craft had a dome on top and a flat bottom. Hoyd assured him that all of us could see it.

Someone wished out loud that the craft would maneuver so that the officers could see it in action. Just as he said this, as if the saucer understood, it began to maneuver!

Ray Hoyd asked if we would like him to have a radar set brought there under G-2 (Army Security) for use in tracking saucers. We told him that we felt it would be better if he did not notify Army Security as they would stop us from telling the public of our experiences. Telling the public, we felt, was most important.

Ray Hoyd said, "I sure would like to be around when that thing lands." A few minutes later, however, he said that he wanted to be as far away as possible if it should land.

We told them that they had nothing to worry about as we were sure the ship would not land with them around for two reasons: (1) the patrolman was carrying a gun, a "38" revolver. (2) The space people had come to contact us, not them.

The patrolman, Don Hoyd, told us that he had seen a saucer once before this, speeding rapidly across the sky.

Our attention now was attracted by a blinking light. Steve Woods, the other deputy sheriff, was trying to signal the space ship with a large flash light. Ray Hoyd took a large, powerful spotlight out of the back of the car and also tried signaling. They received no reply.

Then Ray Hoyd turned to us and said, "You know, although I told you I would like to be here when it lands, I am not so sure that you would be so bent on having it land if you had seen some of the photographs of these things that I have seen."

We looked at each other and then up at the ship. We did not care how many pictures he had seen, we knew the people in this ship were friendly.

We asked Ray Hoyd if he would be willing to sign an affidavit, if we should ever need one, swearing that he saw the object and that it was intelligently controlled and of extra-terrestrial origin. He answered, "Yes, I would swear an affidavit if you ever really need one."

Don Hoyd and Steve Woods were already seated in the patrol car. Believe me, they were ready to get out of there fast if that thing came any closer! Ray Hoyd climbed in too. He drove away feeling unsatisfied, for he had not succeeded in getting the space ship to land. They all seemed glad to get out of there all the same.

And we were glad to get rid of them.

Now we discovered that we had a flat tire. By the time it was fixed we found that people down the beach had noticed what was going on and were watching from a distance. This convinced us that the space ship would not land. Believing that, since we had made contact this time, we could do so again we decided to leave.

The eleven witnesses to this singular event were Ray Stanford (the author), John McCoy, of Corpus Christi, Tex., John Brand, David Piller, Jerry Lee Steele, Uvaldo Champion, Jr., Robert Colberge, and Jimmy Rutlege of Brownsville, Tex., the deputy sheriff, Steve Woods, the state highway patrolman, Don Hoyd, and his father, Deputy Sheriff Ray Hoyd, of Port Isabel, Tex.

These officers have been courageous enough to swear to affidavits stating that they witnessed the contact.

Leaving the island we immediately returned to Brownsville. Shortly before we reached our first stop we were astonished to see directly above us and travelling in the same direction, the gigantic space ship. It was glowing brilliant green as it passed low over the city at three a.m. It streaked low over us and traveled away into the distance as if to say, We came, are gone, but shall return!

At first the notion of UFOs under water seems counter-intuitive. After all they are called "flying" saucers and objects. But surely a technology advanced enough to build a vehicle that can go faster than light and survive the rigors of airless space could construct one that would be able to navigate through liquid as well. For centuries sailors have reported seeing mysterious lights beneath the seas. Paul Stonehill, who was born in Russia and emigrated to the U.S. and is one of the leading authorities on the Russian military; Soviet covert operations, the Russian space program, and Russian UFO encounters and research, offers us a startling look at recent Russian reports on their experiences with….

UFOs BENEATH THE SEAS
By Paul Stonehill
(2011)

V. V. Krapiva, a researcher and writer who resides in Odessa, Ukraine, years ago had attended numerous lectures presented by veteran officers of Soviet nuclear-powered submarines. They had served in the Soviet North, aboard secret naval installations and bases. The lectures sometimes veered off from the planned presentations, and many spellbinding tales were told as a result. For instance, episodes when Soviet sonar-operators (military hydroacoustics technicians) were hearing strange targets present at great depths. Soviet Navy submarines were actually being chased by other submarines.

Mysterious Object Pursues

The pursuers changed their speed at will; speeds that were much greater than any other similar vessel in the world could produce at that time. Lieutenant-Commander Oleg Sokolov confidentially informed the students that while on duty during his submarine's navigation, he had observed through a periscope an ascent of some strange object in the water. He was not able to identify it, because he viewed it through the optical system of the periscope. This underwater takeoff took place in the early 1960s.

An interesting observation of a UFO was recorded by a crew of a Soviet nuclear submarine in 1965. This case is on file in the Colonel Kolchin archives. All those who had observed the UFO, were ordered to report the details and provide drawings to the Special Department (i.e., Naval Intelligence). The submarine was to rendezvous with a ship in the Atlantic Ocean. They arrived at the meeting place an hour and a half before the time of the rendezvous, and the captain allowed the crew to come to the outside deck. No ships were in the area, and the sky was starry and cloudless. Then the watchman observed a cigar-shaped object moving noiselessly through the sky. Although the submarine was in international waters at the time, the Soviets assumed the unidentified object was American, and decided to dive immediately. But their onboard radar did not record anything, and the captain decided to stay put, above-water. Suddenly three rays shot out from the UFO,

and the Soviet submariners noticed something very unusual about the object.

The UFO had no gondolas, and no horizontal or vertical rudders. The object was about 200-250 meters long, and Soviet submariners were not familiar with such dirigibles, for those used by American Air Force were much smaller.

Then something strange took place: the UFO slowly descended to the surface of the ocean, its searchlights still on, about half a mile from the submarine, and dived underwater. The submarine's sonar had registered a strange and very intensive hissing sound, as the UFO submerged, but the sound was of a very short duration.

Reports from Kuzovkin

A well-known Soviet UFO researcher and author A. S. Kuzovkin had been engaged in UFO research ever since he observed one such object in 1964. He was a physicist and researched ecology of anomalous phenomena for *Vokrug Sveta*, a very popular Soviet magazine. Kuzovkin mentioned in his writings that while visiting Sevastopol, a port city in Ukraine, he met with local marine scientists who had descended into the depths of the Black Sea in deep-water bathyscaphes. They observed, among other things, an object that resembled a wheel as large as a ten-story building, standing vertically underwater. The scientists saw and later described to Kuzovkin the "wheel" that would remain immobile for a while, and then move into a horizontal position, rotate, and depart.

Another well-known Russian researcher of the paranormal and author, Aleksandr Petukhov, mentioned an incident from 1951.

It took place in the territorial waters of the USSR. A Soviet submarine encountered a strange underwater object of gigantic size; it did not react to the submarine communication to identify itself, and continued an unhurried movement towards the nation's shores. The captain of the submarine ordered depth bombs to be dropped into the site where the Unidentified Submerged Object (USO) was located. The unidentified object did not react to the attack, and continued its course, at the same speed. After a while it unexpectedly and abruptly ascended to the surface of the sea. At the depth of 50 meters it stopped its ascent, changed the course, and departed.

Yargora *Sighting*

In July of 1978, there was a UFO sighting in the Mediterranean. The

captain of the Soviet motor ship *Yargora* immediately sent a radiogram about it to the Soviet Academy of Sciences. The coordinates of the sighting were 37 degrees northern latitude and 3 degrees 40 minutes of eastern longitude. The time was between 7:30 and 8:40 in the morning. The object that was observed by Soviet seamen was shaped like a flattened-out sphere, its color that of a white pearl. There were three protruding constructions in the bottom portion of the UFO; they resembled antennae. The object moved from an eastward to a westward direction. No reply to the radiogram ever came from the Academy. This sighting was mentioned in the 2001 article written by Valentin Psalomschikov, and published in *NLO* magazine. An unnamed Russian source mentioned that *Yargora's* Captain Cherepanov sent a telegram from the ship to Moscow, Soviet Academy of Sciences, regarding the sighting.

On December 26, 2002, the Russian newspaper *Zhizn* published an article about Soviet observations of UFOs. The chairman of the Anomalous Phenomena Commission of the Russian Geographical Society in Saint Petersburg made a presentation at the society's monthly meeting. The society, founded in 1980, had studied tens of thousands of cases of UFO sightings, and had reached the conclusion that UFOs are real.

The chairman at the time, Yevgeny Litvinov, recalled that his experience with the UFOs had begun when he was a Soviet Navy officer and did not take seriously any published UFO-related information. Then came the winter of 1979-80, and several incidents had rocked the Northern Fleet, forcing the Soviet general staff to take UFOs seriously. UFOs had visited a Soviet submarine base at the Western Dvina every week during a six months period.

The craft were shaped like disks, and hovered over the armaments (mines, torpedoes, and nuclear weapons) preparation sites. The UFOs also flew above the top secret Soviet military town. While the military personnel below freely observed the "flying saucers," the anti-aircraft radars did not register anything. Captain Beregovoy, head of the Naval Intelligence for the Northern Fleet, ordered that photographs of the UFOs be taken, but to no avail; the film turned out to be accidentally over-exposed each time.

The Soviets were busy trying to find out the nature of the UFOs flying over their heads. Initially they suspected NATO, but then it was explained to them that potential adversaries do not possess such technology. To prevent panic, those in command told their military personnel that the UFOs above were actually Soviet-made craft, and that tests were underway. Of course,

high-ranking officers knew better, and felt terrified by the uncertainty.

Rather serious incidents took place during that winter. The crew of a Soviet Project 671 submarine ("Victor" class sub, per NATO classification) encountered a UFO. The sub's commander was Aleksey Korzhev. The sub was coming to the base; sometimes it surfaced, sometimes it would descend to 200 meters. They wanted to be undetected by spy satellites. Then they received a report that up and straight ahead was an airplane. The commander was surprised, for the weather was absolutely not conducive for aircraft flights. But fifty meters from the sub a silvery disc was hovering, slowly moving with the sub, staying a bit ahead of it. The crew looked at it, feeling mesmerized. Then the UFO emitted a ray of light, and this pillar of bright white light did not immediately reach the surface of the water, but contrary to the laws of physics, it slowly descended. Korzhev immediately ordered a change of the ship's course. The disc slowly ascended and disappeared in the clouds. Litvinov said that the Soviets speculated that the UFO wanted to scan the submarine that actually happened to carry new weapons aboard.

Soroka's Report

Mikhail Soroka, a paranormal phenomena researcher from Kiyiv, Ukraine, also described the same incident in more detail in an interview he gave to *FAKTY* newspaper (December 2007). Soroka mentioned fascinating details of the USO encounter when a nuclear submarine was accompanying a surface vessel. The submarine surfaced, and a large object appeared in the sky. Its shape was that of mushroom with its cap turned down. Its bottom part shone white light; the part above shone yellow light; the next part shone reddish light; and the uppermost part shone bright red light. The object not only approached the ships, but also directed toward one of them a ray from its searchlight. Then the object unexpectedly disappeared. He also mentioned that Soviet Navy's intelligence believed that UFOs generally appeared over military vessels and coastal installations.

Later, when Litvinov was with the special commission of the Soviet Navy's main staff, he was able to read dozens of UFO reports that came from the intelligence channels. One report described a UFO landing in Motovsky Bay in the Barents Sea. Years later, a leakage of liquid radioactive waste from a spent fuel storage facility took place in the Motovsky Bay and Litsa Fjord.

Zapadnaya Litsa is the largest and most important Russian naval base for

nuclear-powered submarines. The base is located on the Litsa Fjord at the westernmost point of the Kola Peninsula, about 45 kilometers from the Norwegian border. The Litsa Fjord heads into the Kola Peninsula interior from the Motovsky Fjord, just across from the southeastern coast of the Rybachky Peninsula.

Few people in the West know exactly what was going on there during the Soviet rule. No radar station in the vicinity registered the UFOs. Soviet experts assumed that an ionized cloud enveloped the UFOs.

Another incident, mentioned by Litvinov to Zhizn, comes from the archives of the Russian Geographic Society. It took place in the Mediterranean, in November 1976. Soviet diesel submarine Project 641 ("Foxtrot", per NATO classification), navigated through the Gibraltar, and surfaced. It was at 2:00 am, and the sea was absolutely still. The captain, the watch officer, and signalman came to the submarine deck to verify the vessel's coordinates.

Suddenly they noticed a radiant silvery sphere to the left, over the horizon. The sphere ascended rapidly, and suddenly they saw right in front of the sub, on the water, a radiant map of the Mediterranean. It appeared at precisely the moment when the navigator was to determine the sub's location measuring the position of stars. The impression was that someone aboard the sphere read the Russian navigator's thoughts. Moreover, the radiant map also indicated the sub's position. The sphere flew away, and the map disappeared.

Causes Investigated

Yevgeny Litvinov revealed in the interview that he is convinced that UFOs exist. But he puts aside his convictions when he is asked to determine the veracity of reports.

He has developed a complex method for systematic selection (as is done by intelligence officers). His scale of credible authenticity is based on 350 criteria.

Litvinov has concluded that out of all data, about 70 percent result from technogenic reasons; natural phenomena, or mystification. But the other 30 percent are real observations of UFOs. There are too many of them to simply wave them away. His database contains 10,000 observations and incidents. Litvinov stated that most often UFOs are observed over military installations, areas of ecological disasters, and geological faults.

In the 1970s, reports issued by Admiral V. A. Domislovsky, chief of the

Pacific Fleet's intelligence department, described an unknown, gigantic cylindrical object sighted by Soviet Navy in faraway regions of Pacific Ocean. The object was 800-900 meters long. When it hovered over the ocean, smaller objects exited from one of its ends (like bees from a beehive) and descended into the waters. Some time later they reentered the gigantic UFO. After the smaller objects entered, the UFO would fly away and disappear over the horizon. This information was revealed in Vladimir Ajaja's interviews to Russian media.

Too Fast for Comfort

According to *MosNews.com* (July 16, 2009), former Rear Admiral and nuclear submarine commander Yury Beketov was quoted describing events that occurred in the Bermuda Triangle. "We repeatedly observed that the instruments detected the movements of material objects at unimaginable speed, around 230 knots (400 km. per hour [250 m.p.h.]).

It's hard to reach that speed on the surface—only in the air [is it readily possible]... The beings that created those material objects significantly exceed us in development."

Russian Naval intelligence expert and Captain First Rank Igor Barklay noted that the unidentified objects were most often spotted in deep water near where military forces are concentrated off the Bahamas, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, and the east coast of the United States.

The February issue of the remarkable Belarus newspaper *Sekretniye Issle dovaniya* (Issue 3{212}), contained an article written by Valeriya Peresilkina. Titled *Zagadki glubin* (Secrets of the depths), it lists cases of USOs observed by the Russian Navy in various seas of our planet.

The author mentions Captain First Rank (retired) Yuri Vinogradov who had served in the Soviet Navy from 1975 to 2000. A top expert in his field, he had been involved in a number of submarine search and recovery operations; a veteran of high-risk units, and a participant in four long-range missions. He had been to the Devil's Sea; also known as the Dragon Triangle it is located between Japan, Guam, and northern Philippines. Some call this area the Pacific Bermuda Triangle.

In the 1980s, Vinogradov had participated in the search and rescue operations of the Soviet Pacific Fleet (submarines and surface vessels had been involved). Twice he and other officers had observed, on the sonar screen, a USO that had moved at great speed, and disappeared in the depths.

PART III.
UFOs, PHYSICAL OR PARANORMAL MANIFESTATIONS?

If some flying saucers are not hoaxes or normal phenomenon mistaken as supernormal, what are they? Some believe they are physical vehicles projected through space by techniques beyond our own science. Some believe they are holographic images projected by unknown people or alien beings for unknown reasons. Others believe they are projected into our minds by beings from other realms or dimensions. Still others believe they represent paranormal forces or manifestations, like ghosts or spirits. What follows is an illuminating set of surveys by a number of accomplished Ufologists.

It is difficult to imagine a more lucid or searching answer to the question of where UFOs originate than Frank B. Salisbury's scientific meditation on this topic. One of the editors of the book you are reading (Jean Marie Stine) once attended a conference on UFOs at the Smithsonian Institute where one of the more rabid of the "debunkers" Salisbury mentions, Philip Klass, was asked if he believed there could be life on other planets. It was clear he realized that if he replied in the affirmative, the questioner would consider that response evidence for believing UFOs might be real visitations from other planets bearing intelligent life. Klass quite unscientifically responded in the negative, despite statistical models showing that however unlikely the occurrence of intelligent life elsewhere might be, there were so many billions of galaxies in the universe and so many billions of suns in each galaxy, that it was impossible such life had not arisen – and more than a few times, at that.

ARE UFOs FROM OUTER SPACE?
By Frank B. Salisbury, Ph.D.
(1980)

Often the most rewarding thing science can do in relation to any hypothesis is to try to disprove it. If this succeeds, the hypothesis then probably can be restated in a form that comes closer to the truth. Our specific problem is—how does one go about disproving that UFOs come from outer space?

Perhaps the most logical thing would be to take every single UFO case and prove that *whatever* was sighted did not come from outer space. Clearly, the exercise would have to include *every one,* because if even one UFO came from outer space the hypothesis is not disproved.

Many of the UFOs I've studied have turned out to be the planet Venus; other stars and planets have sometimes accounted for other UFOs. This comes about because the star or planet appears to move and thus the witness believes he is seeing a UFO. Some people are fifty or sixty years old before they first notice Venus blazing up there in the sky; they have no concept of Venus as the morning and the evening star. If you ask people why the sun moves in the heavens they would surely answer that it is because the earth turns but it never occurs to them, apparently, that the stars and planets appear to move for the same reason.

Nevertheless, I'm intrigued with the Venus cases because they give us a small test of how good people are at observing. Actually people come through very well.

I was in Snowflake, Arizona, in May 1977 and heard of a UFO sighting that supposedly took place at the same time Travis Walton had his experience. I visited one of the two witnesses. It turned out the sighting actually took place ten days after Travis's experience but began very close to where the Walton sighting occurred. The two men had been hunting but decided to come home in the early morning—at 3:00 A.M. They saw a brilliant light through the trees and above the horizon which stayed about half a mile ahead of them as they drove east along the road. When they turned south or north it remained in the east but moved along with them. If they stopped the car and got out to listen, the object also stopped. It was about a

three-hour drive home, and the light stayed with them all the way. I immediately suspected they had been watching. Venus, so I listened carefully to everything the witness said. He didn't say a single thing that conflicted with the idea that they had been watching Venus. Although they were convinced they had watched a UFO from outer space, the witness was accurately describing Venus.

This gives me some confidence in the belief that the witnesses at least report their experiences accurately, although probably there is always a little distortion.

Other cases can be solved with only *some* certainty. The Mantell skyhook balloon is a good illustration of this. Reading that Captain Mantell probably was chasing a skyhook balloon, I'm pretty impressed. Almost certainly that's what happened. On the other hand, the records are incomplete, so that we don't have absolute proof that there was a skyhook balloon at that place at that time.

In many of the cases it requires a great deal of faith to accept a prosaic explanation. Close encounters of the second or third kind are especially persuasive.

Actually, the temptation and emotional need to explain UFO cases in terms of misinterpreted natural phenomena, etc., can be a dangerous and powerful trap for UFO investigators. We can name some of those who have fallen into this trap: Philip Klass, Donald Menzel, Ernest Taves, and others. They have a rather distorted view of science; they seem to believe that if you can formulate a hypothesis that matches a few of the facts in a given case and if the rest of the facts can be either wished away, ignored, or distorted, then you've solved the case! To me this is fantasy.

If, in doing research in plant physiology, I believed my hypotheses were conclusive when they seemed to match a few of the facts, it would change my whole approach to science. But this is not the way it works. You may begin with some agreement between your hypothesis and the data. Then you look for the things that don't match and when you find them you modify the hypothesis. Klass and Menzel and Taves seem never to understand this.

In one of the early chapters in the Menzel-Taves book *The UFO Enigma* the authors try to shoot down some of the biblical miracles. Using the exact data available to us all, they approach the "legend" of Christ walking on the water by quoting an article entitled "Theological Optics":

"The legend of Jesus walking on the water can be similarly explained, as

Alistair B. Fraser has suggested. Where a mirage exists, an individual can appear to walk on water when his feet are actually on dry land—as shown in one of Fraser's photographs. Note that the figures appearing to walk on water seem larger than those in the boat. In fact, they were standing on a sand spit about as far beyond the boat as the boat was from the camera. This magnifying effect is generally found in such mirages.

"The same phenomenon may be seen on a highway on a hot day; a mirage of the sky causes the pavement ahead to appear wet. A car driving ahead of you may appear to be floating or moving on the water."

But let me quote the biblical account: "And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightaway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased." (Matthew 14:25-32.)

I'm not arguing for or against the truth of the miracle in the Bible; I'm just illustrating a point. Menzel and Taves take the account, ignore its many details—distance from the boat, Peter walking on the water as well as Christ, the event taking place at night rather than during the day, when one sees these nice little mirages—and then, because they have a photograph that seems to show someone walking on the water, they exclaim, Eureka! The case is solved!

This is typical of the gentlemen's whole approach. They devote several pages to Ezekiel's vision, talking about sun dogs and such things. They state that ".... the agreement between Ezekiel's vision and a modern description of a deluxe-model display of mock suns with attendant glories is completely convincing." But when I read the account I don't see this agreement at all. The Son of Man was on a throne in Ezekiel's wheel within a wheel, and he called Ezekiel to be a prophet to the nations by giving him a little wafer with the call written on it, which he was to read and then ingest into his body. Such details, plus many others, seem like pretty fantastic sun dogs to me.

Philip Klass explained the Captain Lawrence Coyne helicopter case by

saying it was an orionid meteor and then pronounced the case solved! He ascertained that such meteors were *likely* on that night, and basically this is all it took for him to call the case "solved." I find such "reasoning" absolutely fantastic. What were the facts? And how do they match? are the questions which remain unanswered.

Klass also has "solved" the Travis Walton case. This one is worth mentioning because it illustrates an alternate approach—when it is difficult to come up with explanations for the facts there is still a way out—namely, to declare the case a hoax. And if you declare it a hoax, the next logical thing is to show that there were motives, reasons why someone might want to perpetrate a hoax.

Klass also has bragged about how he "solved" the Lonnie Zamora—Socorro, New Mexico, case. This was an important case, so I got out his book and read the chapter. I kept waiting for the solution but it never came clear, so I read it again. Finally, I discovered his solution: The mayor had said they needed more tourists in Socorro! As far as I could see, that was the only bit of data Klass had. His reasoning? It must have been a hoax because a UFO case would bring in more tourists!

Klass took the same approach with Travis Walton. He set up a number of possible motives. I don't doubt in the least that motives can be set up in such a situation. You can always suggest that an individual wants to make money from the hoax that he perpetrates, or that the hoaxer wants the ego boost he gets from knowing he has fooled a lot of people. Although we don't have any difficulty dreaming up such motives, by the same token they don't prove anything.

I talked with some of the principals in the Travis Walton case. They listed for me the motives that Klass had suggested and pointed out how utterly foolish they were. For example, Klass made a big thing out of their thinking this was a way to get out of the Forest Service contract. In actual fact people forfeit those contracts all the time—apparently this is standard operating procedure. You don't have to dream up a UFO to forfeit a contract; you just forfeit it!

I was impressed with this case because of the polygraph tests. Chances are so small that several polygraph tests of that type could be simultaneously faked and, of the tests of the six witnesses, only one set of results was "inconclusive." The witness was asked whether he liked Travis Walton and he answered that he did, whereas he later admitted he didn't. To me this is

impressive; it indicates that the tests were valid; an actual lie did appear in the tests. But at least five of the witnesses showed no stress in upholding the UFO sighting. It is possible that five people could fool a polygraph, but it is extremely unlikely. They were not a close group; they were not the kind of group that would be likely to perpetrate such a hoax.

I recorded some of my conversation with Mike Rogers, who was driving the truck. Of course it is unscientific to consider gut feelings, although science often gets its initial stimulus toward the solution of a given problem through intuition. At any rate, my gut feelings about these words of Mike Rogers's are very positive:

"If it was a hoax, it was not only brilliant but nearly impossible from what I saw. Somebody would have had to really have done a masterpiece to have created what we saw. It would have taken a lot of time and money. The light wasn't extremely bright but it was very penetrating and very strange. Another thing that was really weird is that the light seemed to light up the whole entire area without really being bright. I have a feeling about it too—you know the feeling is one thing that I can't think ... who would put that kind of a feeling into a hoax?

"The very instant that we saw it, it took me about three seconds to become just absolutely terrified. Just totally freaked out! In fact, it was such a thing that to even talk about it right now it gets me kinda feeling funny, you know.

"Several of us guys kinda had the same opinion of it; Tim Peterson was one that got one of the best views of it and he's a level-headed enough person. Alan was in the backseat next to the door, but he's kind of a devout coward; it took him about ten seconds to put his head between his legs. Ken is a more calm person; he just sat there and looked at it, just took it all in, you might say. Alan's description wasn't too good because he just went to pieces so quickly and so totally that ... I don't know just how much he saw of it. He saw enough of it to get freaked out like that, but he didn't sit and actually take it all in like Ken did. I didn't see it as soon as they did; I was on the outer side of the truck and I was driving and I had to watch where I was going until I could get the truck stopped. After I got the truck stopped and turned off the engine, when I could lean over and look out, then I could see it real good but until then I couldn't see it. But Ken, he sat there, his description was kinda the same as mine. I think we were what you might say the two most level-headed of the group. Steve was kinda young—he got real upset by it too. Travis really took it in—it took him in! He just went running right over there. The

only reason I could think that he'd run over there was just the fact that that's his nature. All his life he's been that kind of person. One time (about two years before that, maybe three years before that), we saw a bear run across the road on the way to work one day and he did exactly the same thing. He got out of the truck and ran right after that bear. It's a perfect example of why he did that."

Stories like this don't prove anything. Mike Rogers has practiced this little speech and no doubt can give it in this convincing way. Nevertheless, my gut feeling is positive.

But what do we do when we can't solve every single case? We do what science does much of the time—we indulge in inductive reasoning. We say: "We have solved such and such a percentage of cases and if we just had sufficient facts we would solve the rest." That is, we say that the solved cases are representative of all cases.

This is a valid approach. If we are analyzing a swimming pool for the amount of chlorine, we don't have to analyze every drop of water in the pool. We take a sample and analyze the sample. Can't we do the same thing with UFOs? Can't we take a sample of UFO cases, analyze them, find that they are the planet Venus, weather balloons, mirages, and so on, and conclude that all cases would be the same if we just had a few more data?

No, we cannot. Because the UFO cases that are solved are not representative of the ones that are not solved. This seems clear enough to me. But it doesn't seem at all clear to Menzel, Taves, and Klass. They seem to think that the cases that have been solved are perfectly typical of the ones that have not. To me this is incomprehensible. Perhaps they arrive at this because they *think* they have solved the Travis Walton, Lonnie Zamora, and Captain Coyne cases. By using a distorted form of science they think they have solved cases when they really haven't. On this basis perhaps all cases are alike.

But I think there are profound differences between the UFO cases that I have identified as the planet Venus and those that I have not been able to identify as any conventional phenomenon. Close encounters of the first, second, or third kinds are very different from nocturnal lights. Nocturnal lights are no longer impressive; although some of them may be "spaceships" too, there is no way to be sure they are not something conventional. However, the close encounters are in a different category.

To summarize, you can't solve the whole UFO enigma by solving a

representative sample because the sample that you are able to solve is not representative!

Proving the Impossible and the Possible

William Markowitz published a paper in *Science* magazine in 1967 in which he suggested that UFOs are not extraterrestrial machines because it is impossible to get here from anywhere else in the universe. The counterargument, of course, is that William Markowitz doesn't know that much about moving around in the universe. We have only been in the powered flight business since 1903 and the Wright brothers. In less than one century we have gone from no flight at all to flights to the moon and Mars. Thus I remain unconvinced when someone like Markowitz tries to tell me that it's impossible to travel among the stars. True, we don't know for sure how to do it, although there have been a number of fairly reasonable proposals. But to suggest that it can't be done is to suggest that you know more than can be known at this time.

Can we show that UFOs do impossible things? If we could prove that UFOs do impossible things then we might prove that somebody is lying. But who knows what's possible and what's not possible at this stage of the game? Reportedly the UFOs hover silently, move rapidly without sonic booms or frictional heat, accelerate rapidly, and make right-angle turns at high speeds. By our present knowledge such things are impossible. But our knowledge isn't far enough advanced to say that such things are impossible. Garrett Hardin refers to statements of impossibility as *statements of impotence:* However, we can make a few such statements. I'm told that we can say mathematically that it is impossible to trisect an angle with a straight edge and a compass. The second law of thermodynamics is another impotence principle, so there are a few things that we can say are impossible, but there aren't many.

Gravity control could make a tremendous difference. We have no concept of how or whether gravity can be controlled, but if it can be, then conceivably these rapid accelerations and sharp turns will fall into a very different category.

Or maybe the UFOs are not tangible objects; they are three-dimensional projected holographs. This has been suggested often in recent years. How can we tell the difference? Certainly not by looking. I know of one case in the Uintah Basin where an Indian shot at a UFO with his deer rifle and heard the

bullet ricochet off. That sounds pretty tangible, but I thought, what if those who project the holograph up there are so clever that they are prepared for people to shoot at them and have a recording of a ricochet to play at that exact moment?

The whole UFO business is terribly frustrating. We can't really get our teeth into it; whatever we come up with, there is some kind of an alternative that somebody can suggest.

Another explanation is that the objects are projected into the minds of the witnesses. For example, in the Pascagoula case (the two fishermen who were "abducted") there was, according to John Keel, a drawbridge nearby with a man sitting in a booth facing the area where the UFO appeared and there were cars driving along a nearby road. So we have to ask why no one else saw that brilliant object.

Yet it is difficult to listen to the recorded sessions with these two witnesses and think that they were lying. Could the sighting have been an hallucination in which the image was telepathically projected into the minds of the two witnesses?

My conclusion is that we cannot prove UFOs are not extraterrestrial machines. Here again, the only logical approach would be to prove that every single UFO is not an extraterrestrial machine, and this can't be done. It is a practical impossibility. All other approaches have logical as well as practical limitations.

Can science prove that UFOs *are* extraterrestrial machines? Can investigators apply a scientific approach to prove this?

It is possible to imagine the kind of objective, verifiable data that would convince Philip Klass or even Carl Sagan: The UFOs land and reveal themselves; they provide cures for mankind's ills plus items of a super-technology; and they take Sagan and Klass and me for a ride!

We can imagine the kind of data that would be convincing. But such data depend on the UFO drivers; they depend on the intelligence, presuming there is one, behind the UFO phenomenon. If the drivers are super-advanced and intelligent compared with us, then they may control what we know about them. We may be at their mercy.

I've tried to think of ways that science might prove the nature of UFOs if they are produced by some nonhuman intelligence. I'm on the *National Enquirer* panel that looks at the cases submitted every year; for a "proven" case the *Enquirer* will pay a million dollars. An applicant has to convince,

those of us on the panel and also a panel of judges, because in a way it's a legalistic question. I go to that meeting every year and we try to arrive at decisions on the cases of the last year. I think: What evidence would be totally convincing to Carl Sagan?

Fraud has occurred at all levels of science, so virtually all evidence should be questioned. Perhaps we are looking for convincing photographs taken under suitable circumstances (i.e., in the presence of several reliable witnesses), light spectra from a UFO that have characteristics unknown on earth, and extraterrestrial artifacts. Absolute proof is really difficult to imagine.

My conclusion is that it may be impossible for science to prove the extraterrestrial nature of UFOs. We can learn a great deal about UFOs by applying scientific methods and considering UFO phenomena in the light of our scientific knowledge, but it is possible, perhaps even likely, that our science cannot provide a final solution to the riddle.

UFOs as Extraterrestrial Machines

Sometimes intuition is the only scientific tool for advancing frontiers. One must always be ready to change one's mind at the appearance of new data. At the moment I stand on the fence. Let me explain this.

On one hand, I'm totally unconvinced by the Menzel-Taves-Klass approach, although I'm glad some persons take their attitude because they provide data and make us consider seriously our interpretations of reality and related matters. But I don't think we are going to solve the UFO enigma by taking this approach.

On the other hand, there are many reasons to suspect that UFOs represent extraterrestrial machines and for many years this was, for me, the exciting and intriguing possibility. But I was careful to avoid committing myself on it! People invariably ask me, "Do you believe in UFOs?" I say that is not the game I'm playing. I might believe in God or in other things, but that is a different kind of game.

With UFOs, I'm playing the scientific game, and in science you are not supposed to believe in something; you are supposed to seek objective, verifiable data that lead to tentative conclusions, which may be modified as more and more data come along. So I have feelings about UFOs, but I don't have beliefs or convictions at this time. Nonetheless, there is evidence that they may be extraterrestrial machines.

The cases that I investigated in the Uintah Basin all could be interpreted that way. A man by the name of Joseph Junior Hicks became known locally as the world authority on UFOs and received reports from people over an area of almost one hundred miles in diameter (mostly three small towns with several even smaller towns scattered around). He interviewed these people and made up a form for them to fill out, had them draw pictures, and so forth. I interviewed many of the same people with a tape recorder and they had some marvelous close-encounter stories to tell. We had eighty cases when I finally completed the book *The Utah UFO Display*, and there have been a few more since. Most of the activity was between 1966 and 1968. For example:

Joe Ann Harris, with four other Indian girls in the backseat and a large Indian woman in the front seat, was driving home to Randlett, south of Fort Duchesne, one of those little towns. She came around a corner and one of the girls said, "What's that flashing star over there, that funny star?" It was funny because it was flashing on and off and it was below the horizon. They slowed down and it began to approach them, ending up right in front of the car "as big as the church at Randlett." It was about fifty feet in diameter, flat on the bottom, with a dome on the top. Through the windshield it appeared huge with the dome lit up and flashing. The four Indian girls got down onto the floor of the backseat, screaming their heads off, and the large Indian woman got down under the glove compartment. Joe Ann put the car into reverse, backing down the road to get away from this thing. She looked behind her for a moment, saw headlights coming around the bend and looked back—and the object was gone.

About that same time her friend Estel Manwaring was driving home with another Indian girl, on a different route. Estel looked out the window and said, "Isn't that a funny star?" Apparently it was the same object, flat on the bottom with a dome on the top. But they were not frightened; it was not attacking them. They watched it as they drove on for about half a mile. They turned the car toward it to get a better look, pulled up and flipped off the lights, and the object shot up in the air like a meteor. Although it may have been a quarter of a mile away, Estel tipped her head back so rapidly that she hurt her neck.

The point I'm making is that this object doesn't sound like the planet Venus; like a weather balloon or any such thing. It sounds like a spaceship from another world, if that's the context in which you think of such matters.

Actually, it has been difficult to think of UFOs as being anything else. For the past twenty years that is what we've talked about. Betty Hill asked, "Where do you come from?" and they showed her the star map. Herb Schirmer talked about going off into the stars. The obvious evidence in relatively reliable close-encounter and contact cases implies that they are extraterrestrial machines. (I don't like to call them spaceships because perhaps the only spaceship is the mother ship and the others are little scouts that don't go between the stars but just go around frightening people.)

Doubting the Spaceship Hypothesis

Notwithstanding all this "obvious" evidence, I have become increasingly convinced that the UFOs are not extraterrestrial machines. This seems to be the modern trend in ufology. People are becoming dubious. It is not that the arguments of Klass and Markowitz prove that extraterrestrial machines are impossible. Rather, it is because the UFOs seem so irrational, so perverse. Years ago I used to answer this argument by saying that one can't discern the motives of another intelligence. One can't know what's rational and what isn't if the object is controlled by an extraterrestrial, otherworldly intelligence. This is true, of course, but nevertheless much of what we observe makes almost no sense unless it is truly diabolical.

I gave up thinking that "they" are exploring our planet partly because "they" go so far back in history and partly because things seem so staged. I have listened to one Uintah Basin encounter after another in which the witness comes barreling around a corner and there sits the UFO, waiting. In one case a man and his son were coming back from a fishing trip and they saw a "burning haystack" out in the middle of the desert where there weren't any haystacks. Just as they parked the car and got out to look it took off. It flew up and made a perfect circle around the moon before leaving. Well now, if a UFO is to fly a perfect circle around the moon the witness must be in a certain position in relation to the UFOs flight. If the witness is just a short distance away from that position, the moon will not be at the center of the apparent circle. So if the encounter really happened as they described, the object was flying a perfect circle around the moon and in relation to the two witnesses down there watching. It was responding to their being there. Many other times the witness says, "Oh, look at that!" and the light goes out. Or perhaps he only *thinks* something and the light goes out. This could be coincidence, of course, but the witnesses feel that the object seemingly

responded.

I've decided that it's a display of some kind; that whatever it is, it's for the benefit of the witness. A Frenchman comes peddling his bike over the hill at 4:00 A.M. on his way to the bakery (in Aime Michel's book *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery)* and there "it" sits out in the field. Little "men" are pulling up plants. When I first read this in 1962, I thought, as a botanist, "Aha, I'm proud of them; they are collecting samples just as I would if I went to another planet!" But I'm not comfortable with that thought anymore. I think they were *appearing to collect samples*, perhaps because this is what the baker (and those to whom he would speak of the encounter) would expect. If they want to sample the earth's biota they've had plenty of time to do so, and there are certainly better ways to do it than by pulling plants up by the roots at four o'clock in the morning.

The next question, of course, is why the display? The answer must be that they want to manipulate us in some way, for good or for evil. Do they want to condition us to join the galactic society at some future time? Or are their motives less pleasant?

In many cases the contactees really do seem to be manipulated. Adamski told us that he visited the moon and that its other side has forests and rolling hills, with little towns and lakes; in short, a topography that looks much like northern New Hampshire. I have wondered if the space people want to manipulate some of us—the gullible among us—to turn off those of us who are not gullible, those of us who knew in 1952 that the far side of the moon couldn't be that way. Many of us knew beyond any question that the far side of the moon could not be as Adamski described it because of what was known about this side. If "they" wanted to turn off scientists, engineers, and the non-gullible in general and at the same time manipulate the gullible who were willing to believe, perhaps a good plan would have been to pick up Adamski out at Giant Rock or somewhere and take him for a little spin. When "they" got over northern New Hampshire they might say, "Look out there, George; we are on the other side of the moon now. Go back and tell everybody how it looks!"

Please understand, I'm not saying that I accept Adamski's story. The most logical explanation of his story is that it's a lie, a fraud, a hoax. But when you consider these things seriously you end up with these paradoxes.

One of the most troubling things is that the UFOs seem to meet the expectations of the witnesses. The 1897 airship is surely one of the most

perplexing aspects of the whole problem. No one thought of extraterrestrial machines, yet people were seeing UFOs, calling them airships, and describing them in the context of the science-fiction airships of that time. Does this mean their minds generated them? Maybe, but I'm not at all comfortable with the idea that it was just a response to suggestion among the witnesses. There were too many witnesses; there was too much evidence for a real object. Yet why should it be so exactly suited to their times, beliefs, and sociology? Thought about in this way, practically all cases fit into this category.

Lunatic-Fringe Ideas

There also are elements of the bizarre, the fantastic, the diabolical. You've probably all been titillated by the Antonio Villas-Boas space goddess. This Brazilian peasant claimed he was taken aboard a UFO where he had a (very) close sexual encounter with a diminutive space woman. This has some rather fantastic implications if it is taken at face value. If you think the blonde lady with red hair in her armpits came here from another world to seduce Antonio and become pregnant by him, then you raise the specter of fantastic biological questions. If the inhabitants of other worlds are capable of reproducing with us then their chromosomes would match up when the sperm and the egg unite and we *are one species.* This is totally unacceptable to modern biologists, if we evolved independently on our own worlds. The only alternative is to assume that we are related, that the people from the other world put us here—or we both were placed on our worlds by someone else.

How does all this relate to religion? The miracle of the Fatima sun in Portugal in 1917 is totally set in 1917 Portuguese Catholicism. To try to take it out of that context is to miss an extremely important point.

The healings we hear about also are fantastic. John Keel's books have kept me awake nights thinking about these matters. His "mothman" is fantastic in terms of any extraterrestrial-machine ideas. The prophecies of the contactees are of interest because they are only partially, not wholly fulfilled. For instance, the contactees tell John Keel - there will be a disaster on the Ohio River, probably an explosion in a chemical plant. The explosion doesn't happen, but a bridge collapses instead. Was the prophecy fulfilled or not? Or is something diabolical going on? Must they be spaceships or extraterrestrial machines? They could be, and still account for these strange things, I suppose.

Are they perverse visitors who want to observe or control us and have been doing so for thousands to millions of years—and maybe put us here in the first place?

Are we a huge sociological, ecological, psychological experiment of some kind?

Is our evolution being controlled by the visitors? Personally, I'm not comfortable with any of these ideas.

We've mentioned three-dimensional color holographs and projections into the mind. To that list we can add time travelers from the future and parallel universes. But these are only concepts without foundation in fact, although conceivably they could turn out to be true.

There are realities that can't be comprehended. The human mind cannot grasp the concept of eternity or infinity—a universe without beginning or end. Nor can we imagine space that goes on forever andever, while at the same time we cannot imagine space that doesn't! It's conceivable that UFOs will end up in that horrible philosophical position—something we simply can't grasp with our minds.

I continue to have fun playing science with the UFOs. I have learned a great deal about how science works by worrying about UFOs. But I am no longer really comfortable with this approach. I am more interested in the philosophical and religious implications of the whole business, although I think this is extremely dangerous because everyone who takes a philosophical approach comes up with a different idea—which makes reaching the truth extremely difficult. Yet, within the context of my own religion (I'm a Utah Mormon), I can accommodate some of this. It would be difficult to explain why to anyone who is not a Utah Mormon; we wouldn't be talking the same language! I can only say that I don't know many answers but I do get some solace from some of the religious ideas, specifically the ones within my own faith.

Increasingly, Ufologists have asked if rather than material vehicles from other planets and stars, flying saucers might not be immaterial intrusions from other dimensions, or beyond the grave, or manifestations of unknown abilities deep within the human brain. One of the pioneers of this way of thinking is J. Gordon. Melton, Ph.D., a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion and an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.

UFOs AS PARANORMAL PHENOMENON
By J. Gordon Melton, Ph.D.
(1980)

During the last three years I have been examining the contactee movement and the people who claim direct personal contact with UFO occupants. In particular I focused upon the contactees of the 1950s. I define the 1950s reports by the date of the publication of the contact rather than the date of the claim of the contact. I think this is a fairly important distinction. During the early years of the UFO movement, with one possible exception, there were no contactees who came forward until 1952. Adamski had come out in 1951 in a *Fate* magazine article with UFO photos. There is a five-year lapse between Kenneth Arnold's first sighting, and the claims of contact. There seems to be one case in 1950, but I have not as yet been able to document it thoroughly. Then the cases begin to grow and build on each other.

The goals of my contactee research of 1952 to 1960 were threefold. One was to locate the dominant patterns in the contacts. I think the case-study method when applied to UFO contactees is obsolete. It tends to isolate individual contactees from the milieu in which their contacts occurred. A second goal was to evaluate the contactee claims, and a third, to present one model against which other contactee claims could then be compared. I have presently identified approximately fifty people who claimed contacts and who published those claims in the 1950s. Of these fifty, I have been able to locate thirty-five. There are several explanations that immediately suggest themselves in discussing these contactee cases.

One is psychopathological—the idea that these people are crazy people. Many critics simply dismiss them as psychopathological cases. The latest one is Philip Klass, who dismissed them all as kooks in a recent article in *Fate.* Klass's attack is reminiscent of the way Pentecostals were dismissed as psychopathological fifty years ago by psychologists who had never studied Pentecostalism. Recent studies have indicated that as a whole Pentecostals have a higher mental-health rate than the general population. When people claim that contactees have a pathological bent, it would be a very good idea to ask, "Where are your data?" since unorthodox behavior and beliefs are no sign in themselves of psychopathology.

Another explanation is hoaxing. There are clear indications that some of the contactees have perpetrated hoaxes. There are claims against Fry. There are serious claims against Adamski and I'm sure that Adamski has many questionable elements in his stories. But if you drop out a few claimed hoaxes, you don't get any change in the data. The statistics remain the same. A third perspective, and the working hypothesis of this paper, is that these are normal people who happen also to be contactees. With this perspective in mind, let us turn to look at the contactees themselves.

First, the contactees of the fifties assumed the extraterrestrial hypothesis of UFOs. No real alternative appeared in the decade. Everybody was talking about spaceships, and the contacts were always with spaceships.

The contacts were usually initiated by the aliens and interrupted the normal routines of the contactees. For example, people would be out driving and feel drawn to a certain remote location. Lo and behold, there's the alien!

Or they would be walking down the street or eating lunch and the aliens would accost them on the street and sit down and eat with them.

A few of the contacts were initiated by the contactees. In these cases the contacts had a prior involvement in the psychic. They get interested in UFOs and decide they'd like to talk to a space person. So they go into trance and meditate about flying saucers. Many times the contacts occurred in what today we call altered states of consciousness. Van Tassel woke up in the middle of the night and tried to wake his wife and she wouldn't wake up. Or they're out alone, as Truman Bethurum was, and in the middle of the night, in a dreamy kind of state, Aura Rhanes arrives with her folks. Many of the contacts are plainly out-of-the-body experiences.

The home planet of the space contacts presents a distinct profile. In the 1950s, Venus was the most popular place of residence and Mars was second. Of the thirty-five cases that I studied, thirteen were from Venus, eleven were from Mars, eight from other planets in the solar system, three from outside the solar system, and eight from undesignated places. Today, one rarely finds a contactee whose entity comes from Mars or Venus. In the 1950s it was still possible to talk about possible humanoid extraterrestrial life on Mars and Venus. Today it is not.

The messages that the contactees received are of three kinds:

(1) They received data about the home planet of the person. Oftentimes they visited other planets. But in no case when they visited other planets or when they rode in a spaceship did they require any kind of space suit or

special breathing apparatus. At no time did they have gravity problems; whenever they visited any place it was just like the earth.

(2) Some of them claimed to have received special scientific data of an advanced technology. Van Tassel has been building his rejuvenation machine ever since and is still collecting money to finish it. Reinhold Schmidt claimed a free-energy machine. In no case has any of the scientific technology that was communicated proved useful, but the beings were consistently seen as scientifically and metaphysically advanced.

(3) The third kind was metaphysical. The first question that always intrigued contactees was, "Why me, why did you come for me?" There were several answers to this. Most of the contactees were told that they were chosen because the Space Brothers perceived the right kind of "vibrations" surrounding them. Orfeo Angelucci was one of these.

Several of the contactees were told, "You're nothing special, a lot of people are being contacted and you just happen to be at the right place at the right time. You're one of many."

The third kind of answer was, "You are the new Messiah and you were chosen because you're going to lead the people out of bondage into the promised land."

Once the initial question was answered, the Space Brothers gave out their messages. The messages basically had three thrusts to them; each really related to the other: First, we should stop warring on each other. Second, we should stop polluting the environment. And third, we should stop exploiting nuclear devices. If we turn from our evil ways, we could look forward to a future Kingdom of God or an Aquarian Age in which we will be integrated into the wide interplanetary system and will live in peace and happiness henceforth.

The contactees of the 50s differ sharply from the average UFO witness of today. Contemporary witnesses who sight a UFO have several characteristics. To them, the object sighted is all-important. Second, they react to the object with all the emotions that a person gets when he encounters the unknown. He reacts with fear, questioning, etc. Third, these witnesses take their questions to people who they believe might know the answers or might help them deal with the fear of what they have seen. Not so with the 1950s contactees. Most contactees at that time regarded UFO sightings as pretty superfluous. Many of them never saw a UFO. They received all their contacts on the street, talking to UFO beings who were walking around the earth. They don't really

care about UFOs. Second, they have no problems with fear because they have found the truth. They are not dealing with an unknown entity; it's a known thing and they do not report to UFO organizations because they have no need to.

As important as message content is, the form, that is the means of communication, is more important to them. With few exceptions, the accounts of the 1950s contactees contain a number of extrasensory, extraordinary *paranormal* elements quite apart from the claims of contact with extraterrestrial and space travelers. In each case, with the exception of Dino Kraspedon, psychic phenomena form an integral part of the account. One of the confusing aspects of the contactee literature is the seemingly straightforward nature of the account. If often reads as a normal event in a workaday world. Often it is only in the latter chapters of a book or in a subsequent volume of the account that the paranormal elements become obvious.

My first indication of paranormal activity in contactee accounts came from reading Al Bender's book *Flying Saucers and the Three Men.* In the book Bender is selling the whole idea of the Men in Black, and he's selling it as if the Men in Black are walking around as you and I are and might walk in that door right now. But when you read the account it's very obvious that all Bender's MIB contacts were made while he was having an out-of-the-body experience. His description is classic. He goes in, he lies down, he's resting, he's tired, and all of a sudden he's floating. He looks down and sees his body lying on the floor. And then the Men in Black appear, and they always appear when Bender is in that out-of-body state.

The fifty contactees almost universally claim telepathic communication. While often not using that phrase, they will talk with space beings and know what their question is before they have vocalized it. Telepathy becomes a means of initiating contact and also overcomes the language barriers. Paranormal experiences generally begin in an altered state of consciousness, as I mentioned earlier. Accompanying the experience are various paranormal events that anyone studying the history of the saints becomes aware of: levitation, dematerialization, a paralyzing ray. We're all familiar with the accounts of rays drawing contactees into spacecraft. The story appears over and over again in contactee literature. I have a picture from one of Laura Mundo's books that shows a woman being drawn up by a white ray into the craft. Several healings also occurred and there were all kinds of psycho-

kinetic and poltergeist effects.

The paranormal aspect of the contact became increasingly important to the 1950s contactees, especially for those who had expressed strong opinions about conditions on other planets. At the time, such opinions about civilizations on Venus and Mars could not be disproved, though the same could not be as clearly said of Jupiter and Saturn. But as space exploration contradicted their descriptions, their fallback position was always the psychic. "The Venus civilizations still exist but they exist on the astral etheric plane—at a different vibrational level."

The position was clearly stated by Riley Crabb of Borderland Sciences Research Associates, speaking from the Mark Probert material. Probert was a medium who headed up the inner circle in San Diego. Probert pointed out that it's true that a few human earthlings have entered discs and other aerial forms and have taken short rides in them. But no earthman can make an inner planetary or true space flight in an aerial form while in his normal physical body. Such a flight would be possible provided his body were reconditioned prior to entering the UFO, but further true space flight, even if achieved by humans under the protection mentioned, would result in amnesia and serious physical disorders. That is, Crabb was saying as early as 1957 that all the space flights are etheric.

Psychic aspects of the contactee literature of the fifties also explain the continuity of these accounts with all the pre-1950 claims of extraterrestrial contact. Beginning with the Swedish seer Emanuel Swedenborg in the middle of the eighteenth century, a number of men and women wrote of their trips to Mars, Venus, and the moon, and even the outer planets. The discovery of the so-called canals of Mars and the resultant speculation about civilizations there spurred Martian contactees. Almost all these accounts either were unashamedly psychic, having been made by a medium in trance; or were an astral trip by someone who, like Bender, was confused about what was really happening to him.

These early contactees interacted not only with popular knowledge about astronomy but also with science-fiction literature. The early accounts followed the format of the fantastic-voyage novels so popular in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The works of Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, and Edgar Rice Burroughs established the format of the contactee story. For example, Burroughs sent his hero to Mars by astral travel. There he traveled to various cities on the canals and waterways and found a spouse so human as

to be capable of mating with him. But the psychic aspects of the contactee phenomenon, to explain the nature of the messages or the passion (since new information now proved so much to be incorrect), was pressed upon any listening ear.

The third significant pattern of the 1950 contactees emerges from the examination of the social structures which formed around them. David Jacobs pointed out that the contactees did not relate to "reputable investigating agencies but instead went directly to the public in books, articles, lecture tours and clubs." In light of the nature of the UFO phenomenon and the organization of interest around the investigation of the mystery, the contactee had no use for ufologists and actually did bypass their orientation and structures.

However, such behavior is by no means necessarily consistent with hoaxing. As a matter of fact, the long-term behavior of many contactees who continued to tell their stories when no financial elicitation was present is inconsistent with hoaxes. In some cases the contactees experienced a serious drain on friendships, money, and careers. Nevertheless, their behavior appears consistent and logical if one sees them as having experienced not just a psychic event but also a religious vision—a mystical encounter interpreted as extraterrestrial intervention.

Having experienced a religious awakening the contactee moves to reinforce it by repetition and by sharing it with a body of believers. Over half the 1950s contactees went on to establish their own formal religious groups. Almost all of them were modeled on psychic, spiritual, and theosophic groups from which they derived their form and much of their theology. Many of these groups had a short life, but several have grown into large organizations. Mark-Age, Uranius, and Understanding, Incorporated, being the largest. The Aetherius Society continues to struggle with only two small groups left in the United States. The highly splintered Adamski groups still claim a wide following internationally.

Second only to the contactee groups are the various contactee conventions, several of which gather annually under the direction of Van Tassel, Gabriel Green, and, more recently, Frank Stranges and Wayne Aho. As a matter of fact, as we meet today in Chicago, the contactees are gathering at Tacoma, Washington, at the foot of Mount Rainier, to celebrate Ken Arnold's sighting of thirty years ago. Williamson, Aho, and Green are all there.

Many of the established group leaders have been joined by less popular or

less adept contactees. The latter function as roving evangelists in the revivalistic camp-meeting atmosphere at conventions. During the rest of the year, the contactees tour the country speaking to various flying-saucer clubs and psychic interest groups, and gathering new believers.

The early contactees and their followers have shown little interest in the UFO problem except to use it to gain an audience. They did not participate in the mystery surrounding UFOs since they already knew the truth: UFOs were extraterrestrial craft. They had no time to play games with the Air Force or other investigators. They had a message for all who would listen.

Taken together, the contactees and their followers formed a Flying Saucer Movement quite distinct from any serious research approach to the UFO controversy. The base of the movement was close-knit groups which formed around individual contactees. The conventions were their ecumenical gatherings; the contactees who did not form groups served as independent evangelists. Writers such as Helen and Bryant Reeve and Riley Crabb emerged as their intelligentsia, i.e., their theologians.

The Reeves, reflecting on the movement, set the topic in a report of a lengthy tour to visit the contactees. "We have come to a point where we realize that flying saucers per se are no longer of prime importance. It is not physical saucers that are important but what lies behind the physical proofs."

The contactees were in tune with the Reeves's observation, and most eventually moved beyond the recitation of information about their contact to reflect on what the Reeves termed cosmic truth, metaphysics, and spiritual science. These reflections were based on the Space Brothers' messages. The space people were using the contactee as a channel or medium. Messages were circulated in a continuous flow of books, magazines, and mimeographed handouts. The average contactee of the 1950s can best be viewed as a focus of a psychic/religious visionary experience. Its content was built about a multitude of sources available in our popular culture: public knowledge of mistakes about astronomy, prior expectations about the nature of extraterrestrial contacts, spiritualist and theosophical theology, the Bible—and pure fantasy. As such, the contactees of the fifties continued the spiritualist and theosophical concepts of the previous two centuries and found their heritage in popular religions rather than in strange objects seen in the sky.

The contactees of the fifties also pose questions about more recent contactee claims. They raise the possibility that many such claims are also

reports of complex religious/visionary experiences. This hypothesis needs to be tested but it would account for the seeming dichotomy between the extraordinary content of claims which contradict known science and the aura of truthfulness that pervades the actual accounts. The vivid visions are described as occurring in the real world. The visionary approach to the contactee phenomenon would move researchers beyond the dilemma of declaring each contact either true, a hoax, or a delusion and would explain why types of contacts tend to follow trends.

Finally, the visionary hypothesis suggests that a fruitful field of research would be the comparison of contactee experiences with the entire range of other religious experiences, such as the charismatic Baptism of the Holy Rollers and the apparitions of the Virgin Mary, trance shamanism, gnosticism, and mysticism of various kinds.

Virginia M. Tilly, M.A. is one of the many metaphysicians who agree with Dr. Melton's conjecture that rather than being physical manifestations, UFOs may have a paranormal basis. A retired teacher and clinical hypnotherapist, her work hypnotizing contactees has contributed much to her current attitude about UFOs.

DO UFOs HAVE A METAPHYSICAL ASPECT?

By Virginia M. Tilly, M.A.

(2009)

UFO-abduction information has been ignored, rejected, or never even noted. When an investigator is told by a UFO witness, "I had the feeling that I was being watched," it has been dismissed as the thinking of an attention-seeking individual. In gathering data there is typically no place to record much in the way of subjective reality.

The percipient may relate to the investigator: "This may sound crazy, but just before this happened I had a sudden urge to go for a walk," despite the fact that it was after dark on a clear, quiet weeknight. The excursion inexplicably leads to some deserted place, such as a field or an empty parking lot.

The supposedly least credible witness of all is the one who reports repeated UFO sightings. It seems illogical that while most people never see a UFO (even if they want to or try to) others see several of them.

Openings such as these, however, provide an observant investigator with an opportunity to ask questions of a more metaphysical nature. Most researchers are committed to gathering information about physical reality only: Can it be measured? Weighed? Disassembled? Analyzed? Photographed? They remain faithful to the modern Western world's dedication to reductionistic science.

Speaking to his colleagues at Harvard University in 1895, psychologist and philosopher William James said, "There is included in human nature an ingrained naturalism and materialism of mind which can only admit facts that are actually tangible. Of this sort of mind the entity called 'Science' is the idol. Fondness for the word scientist is one of the notes by which you may recognize its votaries; and its short way of killing any position it disbelieves is to call it unscientific."

We live in an era in which the scientific view has been that the supernatural, or paranormal, cannot exist; therefore, it does not exist. Thus, either no attempt, or only a very cursory one is made at explaining unusual phenomena. More frequently that type of information has just been ignored.

In far too many instances the subjective facts have not even been collected.

Pressures for the Investigators

There are so many elements of the UFO phenomenon that are illogical, unreasonable, unbelievable, or just too weird to be given serious consideration by scientific observers. It is not surprising that the door has been closed to investigating or even contemplating the most paranormal claims of UFO and abduction percipients. An investigator who wants to be taken seriously rarely includes details that seem more appropriate for ghost hunters, parapsychologists, New Agers, or even demonologists and exorcists.

Only a few intrepid investigators have gathered information in UFO reports about the metaphysical aspects of this phenomenon, such as psychokinesis, materializations and dematerializations, levitation, mental telepathy, clairaudience, clairvoyance, clairsentience, synchronicities, religious visions, or even anomalous animals.

An Unparalleled Enigma

Jacques Vallee is a scientist well known for his investigations into the absurdities (or "metalogic") of the UFO phenomenon. In his evaluation of the metaphysical aspects involved, he has said: "The key to an understanding of the UFO phenomenon may lie in the psychic effects it produces (or the awareness it makes possible) in some observers; whose lives are deeply changed and who develop unusual talents with which they may find it difficult to cope..."

Individuals who have close encounters and/or abduction experiences are sometimes frightened, sometimes confused, but always amazed by phenomena that happen to and around them, or by what they themselves are suddenly able to do. Curiously, many investigators begin to experience anomalies in their own lives as they become more involved in these high strangeness cases.

UFO craft exhibit puzzling aspects, such as their seeming ability to defy the laws of physics as we currently understand them. They travel at incredible speeds, hover silently, morph into different shapes, and seem to defy gravity. In the blink of an eye, they appear and disappear. Even with our best stealth technology we cannot render objects invisible.

In CE IIIs and CE IVs (close encounters of the third and fourth kinds), there is a great probability that the sudden disappearance of a craft at close

range is the point at which an apparent abductee is "switched off," then "on" by the force with which they have been interacting.

ET Seems to Be Able to Materialize and Dematerialize

The entities associated with UFOs also display incredible abilities. Often these seem to be passed on to the human in such cases.

These beings seem to materialize and dematerialize before the witnesses' eyes. On several occasions I have had abductees attempt to describe what that looks like. Some have explained it as dissolving either in midair or in a misty haze. Others say they twinkle or sparkle as they seem to disintegrate.

After hearing many such descriptions, I was amazed when I read in an older book the following account: "I heard a peculiar rumbling sound... His body began to melt gradually within the piercing light. First his feet and legs vanished, then his torso and head...faded; nothing remained before me but the...window and a pale stream of sunlight."

On another occasion the same author wrote: "There was a sudden flash; we witnessed the instantaneous dechemicalization of the electronic elements of [his] body into a spreading vaporous light... trillions of tiny...sparks faded into the infinite reservoir."

This passage from *Autobiography of a Yogi* by Paramahansa Yogananda relates the disappearance of the spiritual entity with whom Yogananda had interacted on numerous occasions early in the 20th century.

Isn't That Impossible?

Another metaphysical aspect displayed by these beings is the ability to pass through walls, roofs, and closed doors or windows, often with a human in tow. Almost every abductee has at least one of these episodes to relate. Several have told how they tried to stiffen their bodies and pull back as they were being escorted toward a solid wall. The next thing they knew they were on the other side without having felt anything.

One unusual case involved a woman who told me that while lying in her bed one night she felt herself being drawn through a bedroom window head first, face down, arms pulled back at her sides. She could feel the glass as it seemed to drag across her face and body until she was out to about her waist. It seemed to her that something was not quite right. She had gone through walls and windows before without feeling anything.

The next thing she knew her direction reversed, and in a moment she was

back in her room. She found herself almost immediately moving out the window again, this time quickly and without the earlier sense of drag across her face and body.

One very young girl asked her abductors how they could take her so easily through a closed door. Her guide told her that it was actually quite simple, but human scientific knowledge was rather primitive so we did not yet understand how this was accomplished. He added that very soon humans would begin to understand how to do this and much more.

Anomalous Animals Connected with Abductions

Another perplexing phenomenon associated with UFOs and abductions is the presence of anomalous animals. Out-of-place or oversized animals, Sasquatch type beings, mixed-species entities, or even mythological animals may be observed in the general area of UFO sightings or around people who have sightings or abductions. This can occur before, during, and after UFO activity.

Most frequently reported is a black panther, always totally outside of its natural habitat. Occasionally a green lizard-man or a Mothman-type entity is observed. Localized reports of similar encounters are typically given by several independent witnesses.

I have collected several reports of Sasquatch-type creatures. One of my most interesting came from a 14-year-old boy. A few days after I had been on a local radio program talking about UFOs, one of my students approached me after school and cautiously asked if he could tell me about something that had happened to him. On a cold January night the previous year he had suddenly decided to go for a walk. He noticed a very bright light in the sky that seemed to follow him. Before long he heard a soft beeping sound. He remembered little else from that night, and remained quite puzzled by it.

After telling me about this event he asked if I believed in Bigfoot. When I assured him that I felt that there had to be something to all of the sightings, he told me that on several occasions he had seen such a creature. Curiously, it always seemed to be observing him. This happened when he was visiting his grandmother in a remote area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Unusual Animals in the "Zone of Strangeness"

As an individual is drawn into the zone of strangeness, he may encounter a hauntingly attractive or compelling animal. Two most frequently reported are

a deer or an extremely large owl. The animal is suddenly observed directly in view, usually remaining motionless while staring intently at the human with large, dark, mesmerizing eyes. Typically this is one of the last things remembered before a missing-time experience occurs.

I suspect that these and other animals (ravens, wolves, butterflies, or bees) may be a form of screen memory used to distract a human at the beginning of an abduction experience. In some cases, they may even be shape-shifters.

Why are so many of these unusual animals observed by UFO witnesses and abductees? Is the creature some part of the UFO phenomenon? Is this some form of energy or force attracted for some reason to people who have these experiences? Is it possible that the experiencer is viewing another dimension or reality? Or is it even possible that the individual herself is creating or releasing an energy by which they materialize?

Men in Black Make Appearances Too

Another long-standing curiosity connected with these experiences is the phenomenon of MIBs, or Men in Black. These unusual beings were common in the 1950s and '60s, and rarely heard of in the '70s and '80s. They are again more frequently reported.

People who encounter MIBs are those who have had close encounters of the first, second, and third kinds, abductees (CE IVs), as well as UFO investigators. In most cases the targeted person is alone when she is visited by one, or more typically three, of them. Almost always male, they are described as being either pale-skinned, almost colorless, or as having an Oriental complexion and facial characteristics.

Usually only one individual speaks. The voice is often a flat, expressionless monotone. Many say that somehow they do not seem real with their stiff, awkward movements. Frequently they do not seem to understand how to operate fairly simple devices. They are dressed in a black suit, white shirt, black tie, a brimmed black hat, and dark sunglasses.

If a vehicle is observed it is typically a late model, immaculate, large black car, generally a Cadillac. When license numbers have been recorded and checked out, there is never such a registration in existence. Invariably a message is delivered to the human about knowing too much, getting out of this field of research, or not talking about it with anyone.

Black Helicopters as MIBs?

In recent years, UFO investigators and abductees have had repeated close encounters with large, black, unmarked helicopters. These are generally Hueys equipped with a special antenna. There are no identifying numbers, marks, or insignia anywhere on these craft. Even the windows are so dark that when seen at close range it is impossible to observe who (or what) is inside. They fly illegally, making low passes, circling or hovering over populated areas, all without proper identification.

The Rev. Barry Downing has suggested that these may not really be helicopters. Many people are beginning to consider these helicopters to be the modern version of the Men in Black. They feel that those who control the supposed helicopters are trying to intimidate and scare them away from learning anything more about UFOs.

While I have personally had several experiences with black helicopters, I have never felt intimidated or threatened by them. I do, however, resent their intrusion into my personal life and I feel very closely observed.

A curious sidelight to this issue can be found in an entry in *Harper's Encyclopedia,* stating that in "Eastern mysticism the MIBs have a parallel in the 'Brothers of the Shadow,' evil beings who try to prevent occult students from learning the great truth."

Mind Control

An abundance of evidence about close encounters shows that there is intense control of the human mind during an abduction experience. Whatever the method used to achieve this control, an experiencer is inexplicably and suddenly influenced to act or to think in certain ways. While driving he may suddenly, without provocation, turn down a deserted road. Or he may, during a solo walk, unexpectedly go into a wooded area or to a lonely park.

Or he may awaken to become aware that there is an intruder going into a sleeping child's room. He first thinks: *I must get up and go to my child's room to protect her!* but then inexplicably concludes: *Oh, everything's okay. I'll just go back to sleep now*. Invariably in the morning the child relates a very strange dream or memories of some strange being at his or her bedside during the night.

Abductees report that as much as 100 percent of the communication during their experiences is done telepathically. Most abductees report having heard their names called telepathically at the beginning of the encounter. Only rarely is the name heard aurally. Their name may be repeated over and

over until they respond in some manner. On some occasions as an individual is recalling having heard that voice (usually reported as sounding male and only occasionally as having a mechanical sound quality) they become agitated and say something like, "He's inside my head!"

Frequently abductees explain how, in their terror, they mentally struggle with, challenge, or question their captors. Many recall having been given the thought that their resistance makes the experience much more complicated and unpleasant than it needs to be. Many of them are led to believe that their mental resistance also led to controlling and ending the experience. This may be another example of a screen memory.

Most percipients report that post-abduction changes include being able to use telepathy in their daily lives. Many report being able to think of someone and have them call or appear in a short time. Or they send mundane messages (e.g.,"Bring me a candy bar") to someone who then, without knowing or even wondering why, responds in the appropriate manner. Some claim that they can look into the eyes of another person and read what is in his thoughts.

Development of Clairaudience

Closely associated with telepathy is clairaudience, the clear or acute perception of sounds, music, and voices from no apparent external source. Many abductees begin to experience such skills at an early age. While most do not associate it with their close encounters, there are too many commonalities among these incidents to ignore the connection.

Clairaudience includes being given messages while in a dreamlike state, just before falling asleep or waking. Most clairaudience is perceived as an internal voice distinctly different from one's own.

Many abductees report hearing music in their heads, something quite different from having a catchy song or jingle on your mind. It seems to be received internally as though it were a recording playing. It usually comes as a surprise, then suddenly shuts off.

Abductees frequently hear their names called, again internally. This has been going on for centuries. King Solomon heard his name called, as did Moses and Samuel, and also Mohammed, Socrates, and Joan of Arc. The contacted individual is usually told to go to a certain location, or to engage in a particular activity, like cleaning up the Earth's environment or to improving one's eating habits. Others report being forewarned about disasters or other approaching events.

We can only wonder what may be involved with those who hear voices that tell them to preach or to start cults. Some have been instructed to arm themselves heavily and to gain complete mental and physical control of their followers and as many other souls as possible. It is clear that not all such communication is of a positive or constructive nature. Furthermore, not all messages are meaningful, and some are downright dishonest.

Do Abductees Also Become Clairvoyant?

Clairvoyance is defined in *Harper's Encyclopedia of Mystical and Paranormal Experiences* as "The perception of current objects, events, or people that may not be discerned through the normal senses." It "may manifest in internal or external visions, or a sensing of images."

Many percipients relate experiences that they or their family members have had which could be called clairvoyance.

On several occasions, one woman would envision a car, complete with license number, and within hours see that exact car. The same woman had a vision of a house on a vacant field across the road. She said it sat at an odd angle and had rather unique windows. Within a year the land had been sold and the house, exactly as she had seen it, was constructed.

Another woman became frantic when, at our scheduled meeting time, I arrived at her home relating how I had just witnessed a small plane crashing. I calmed her, reassuring her that everything was okay. The only person in the plane, the pilot, had crawled out with only minor injuries. That was not the problem, she told me. She had had a dream a few days earlier about my coming in and telling her exactly what I had just related.

Later that day this woman's husband was scheduled to be released from a brief stay in a local hospital. The night before he had told her that after their now 22 month-old son had been born he had known that after a second child was born he himself would be hospitalized. He added that it would not be serious and that he would be home in a short time.

More than a year before, his wife had had another of her clairvoyant dreams. In that vision their small son stood next to the rocking chair in which she sat holding a baby in her arms. The older boy asked, "Mommy, when is Daddy coming home from the hospital?"

"Daddy is going to be fine," she assured him. "He'll be home in a few days."

This woman rarely discusses her dream-visions, as they usually involve

emotionally charged events centered on people with whom she is very close.

Dealing with Clairsentience

Though rarely called by its more metaphysical name, clairsentience, many abductees report an acute psychic perception involving any or all of their physical senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, or touching, as well as emotions that become psychic and intuitive impressions.

Many abductees become aware up to several hours in advance that an abduction is going to take place. Often they hear a buzzing sound or tone in their heads. They have the disquieting feeling that someone is hovering nearby, watching and listening. Work and other activities are performed as if only going through the motions. They know that later that night they will once again be visited.

Children who have these feelings tend to become hyperactive, even aggressive, or withdrawn and moody. They may try to put off going to bed for as long as possible, or try to sleep anywhere other than in their own bed. In abductee families it is not uncommon to have a lot of bed-switching. Many will sleep on a sofa, the floor, a chair, or even on a table. Sometimes moving to another place to sleep seems to help, but usually it does not.

An individual may report a fleeting impression or feeling. Upon closer scrutiny this can be interpreted as a true instance of intuition, such as knowing which numbers to pick in the lottery, or that there is a police car nearby when one is driving too fast.

A number of years ago a percipient wanted to find another woman who had reported being assaulted and, as was not uncommon at the time, was being challenged by authorities. The percipient wanted to offer the victim moral and emotional support. With no idea how to find this woman, who lived in a remote rural area near a small village, she started driving, using gut-level instincts alone. Without knowing why, at several places she suddenly turned down various roads and within a remarkably short time found herself at the victim's home. After a brief explanation, she was warmly received.

Volumes could be filled with such experiences collected by open-minded investigators. Many have had such experiences themselves, whether or not they will admit to it publicly.

A serious-minded investigator was enthusiastically chasing a UFO across the countryside. When there was no longer a road to reach the area where the

UFO hovered near the ground, he got out of his car. He climbed a fence and continued on foot across an open field, eager to experience his first close encounter.

Suddenly he stopped. He had a feeling that he should no longer continue. He hurried back to his car and left the scene without further thought. Afterwards he was dumfounded as to why he would have stopped this tantalizing pursuit.

Shouldn't Psychokinesis Be Impossible Too?

The ability of the mind to control the movement or activity of inanimate objects is known as psychokinesis. Not only do abductees report that their abductors display such powers, but many of them find that they too can use their own minds to do seemingly impossible things.

Doors and windows can be made to slam shut without anyone touching them. Lights may be dimmed, brightened, or turned off or on in the same inexplicable manner. Telephones, clocks, radios, televisions, and recording devices can have their operations disrupted, or be turned off or on without a touch. Later they usually function normally once again.

Animals have been affected too. More than once I have heard an abductee describe how he has gotten an insect or some other creature to change directions by concentrating on it or pointing at it.

Psychokinesis is erratic for most people. It may be something like someone wondering what he should do next and at that instant a book falls off of a shelf displaying pertinent information. It appears that the stronger one's emotions are at the time, the more successful the psychokinetic effects become.

What Does It All Mean?

The lives of individuals having close encounters are filled with metaphysical phenomena. Others include miracles and healings, space-time distortions, synchronicities, shadowy entities, poltergeist-like activity, empathy, and out-of-body experiences.

Is it just coincidence that these experiences have a transformative effect upon those who are abducted? Do these metaphysical aspects connected with the UFO phenomenon have meaning, or is it just an accidental byproduct? Apparently, only time and additional research of these unusual experiences will reveal that answer.

In the following essay spiritual counselor Diane Tessman connects UFOs with the return from beyond death of those who have passed over and now manifest themselves in spirit form.

UFOs AND GHOSTS
By Diane Tessman
(2009)

Question One: Are ghosts a phenomenon of the past?

By definition, ghosts "should" be in the past, being perceived by fellow humans there. Think of a street in old New Orleans, around 1800. Women scurry around in long dresses, carriages with horses rattle by, and at the docks, slaves are unloading cargo. Watching the unloading is a beautiful brown-skinned woman in simple clothing, head wrapped turban-style. She seems troubled.

Move forward to 2013, and down by the New Orleans waterfront, a young man suddenly perceives the misty, translucent form of a mixed-race woman, wearing a head-wrap, looking worried.

This would be a typical ghost sighting: Often the ghost is from a turbulent, colorful period of time and often the ghost is unhappy. Seldom does the ghost look like solid flesh, but rather has a phantom-like appearance.

Question Two: Are UFOs a phenomenon of the Future?

We don't know what "time" UFOs are from, let alone their origin, but in another hundred years, humans may have flying craft which nullify gravity, rather than operating aerodynamically like our current airplanes. Therefore our craft will be able to stop suddenly, make right angle turns, and maneuver in ways that airplanes cannot.

So when a man steps out for a smoke in 2014 and suddenly spots a UFO, we assume the UFO is physically present in 2014, hovering above this man. Instead, what if this man had actually perceived a future event, just as the young man who saw the ghost in New Orleans was "seeing" the past?

Question Three: Does the perceiver influence what is seen?

One of the most bizarre premises of quantum theory states that by the very act of perceiving, the observer affects the observed reality.

Researchers at the Weizmann Institute of Science recently conducted an experiment demonstrating how a beam of electrons is affected by the act of being observed. The experiment, headed by Prof. Mordehai Heiblum,

revealed that the observer's influence on what actually takes place increases with the amount of observation that occurs.

Heiblum and his team concluded that when a quantum "observer" is watching, the behavior of particles will change. When behaving as waves, they can simultaneously pass through several openings in a barrier and then meet again at the other side of the barrier. This "meeting" is known as interference. However, interference resulting from waves can only occur when no one is watching. Once an observer begins to watch, the picture changes dramatically: If a particle can be seen going through one opening, then it's clear it didn't go through another opening. In other words, when under observation, electrons are being "forced" to behave like particles and not like waves. In a sense, human observations seem to "cement" these events into solid reality; when in pure wave form, a number of potential outcomes existed.

It might be that a few people have an ability to "change perception" more than the rest of us; this might explain such things as why some people have seen multiple UFOs throughout their lifetimes.

Question Four: Is human perception affected by the Doppler Effect?

A quick reminder of what the "Doppler Effect" is. There are two Doppler Effects, one that deals with sound, which is commonly heard when a vehicle sounding a siren passes, and recedes from an observer. The received frequency is higher (compared to the emitted frequency) during the approach; it is identical at the instant of passing by, and it is lower during the recession.

The second Doppler Effect, dealing with light and motion, is slightly different from the sonic variety. A celestial object moving toward us shows a blue shift (Doppler Effect) and a celestial object moving away from us shows a red shift (Doppler Effect).

Is it possible that ghosts and UFOs also involve electromagnetic anomalies, the "distortion" of light as it usually acts, and as time then dilates, a window opens on The Past or the Future?

Question Five: When we spot a ghost, do we perceive the Past through a peephole in time?

Let's assume that most of the time, we are standing in the center of the Doppler Effect. We perceive neither through the perception of the red shift nor the blue shift. We are the "normal" dot in the center. This is what we call

The Present.

Ghosts could manifest because suddenly the perception of the human observer has shifted back through time. This could happen as the observer is subject to light and time fluctuations, which may happen once in a while within human consciousness. Instead of standing in the center of the Doppler Effect, she suddenly has the "red shift" view of time. (Red shift leads to The Past, which we are moving away from).

Question Six: When we spot a UFO, do we perceive The Future through a peephole in time? Is the observer's human consciousness suddenly functioning through a window of blue shift perception, no longer perceiving from the middle dot of The Present?

Perhaps some UFOs, rather than "visiting" us, are actually going about their business in the Future, albeit in the same physical spot where we "see" them moving.

I realize that many circumstances regarding UFOs suggest that they are here with us in the Present. There is often more than one observer (perceiver); also, CE2 means there is physical evidence that the UFO was here (like burned marks on ground or radar confirmation). This doesn't happen often, or at least we are not told about it.

However, in a number of reports, UFOs simply wink out, as if a peephole into "some-when else" just closed. Perhaps the UFO is simply going about its business in some other time, and in these cases, some fluke of space-time allowed the observer to perceive non-temporal events.

Question Seven: Why do ghosts usually belong to the near-past and not to the cave days?

How often does someone see ghosts trudging from Africa to Europe as part of the early migration in which humans moved out of Mother Africa? How often does someone see a Neanderthal getting ready to throw a spear? Not often! Stories suggest that observers have seen regiments of marching, ghostly Romans and apparitions of Celt warriors, but these are rare.

Sometimes ghosts appear to be family members. A friend of mine tells me that her grandfather still haunts the family home. Grandpa is from the recent past.

So it might be that the "red shift perception" of The Past works better if the ghost is nearer to The Present. As the red shift continues outward in the

rippling pool of events/time, it grows more distant from the observer of The Present. In other words, 1800 A.D. may be easier to perceive "spectrally" than 12,000 B.C.

Who knows if the UFOs we spot in a blue shift of perception are from a few hundred years—or two million years—in The Future?

Question Eight: Is the connection between UFOs and ghosts simply the phenomenon of time itself?

UFOs shift perception to the Future while ghosts shift our perception to the Past. Ninety nine percent of the time, we stand on the dot in the center called The Present.

Is human consciousness subject to the quantum physics of the Cosmos? It seems impossible that human consciousness is a phenomenon outside of all the other wonders of The Universe. If we are a part of it all, then we must consider that phenomena happen to us that are directly within the workings of the vast universe all around... phenomena for which real perceptions, and results, do exist.

Dr. Robert M. Schoch, who holds a Ph.D. in Geology and Geophysics from Yale University, along with a B.A. in Anthropology from George Washington University, goes even further into the paranormal than the previous writers, linking UFOs with ancient, as well as forgotten, civilizations. In the process, he leaves his readers with much food for thought.

UFOs AND FORGOTTEN CIVILIZATIONS
By Robert M. Schoch, Ph.D.
(2013)

I write this having just returned from "The Great New Jersey UFO, Paranormal, and Consciousness Conference" (Founder and President, "Dr. UFO" Pat Marcatilio; Conference Director: David Stinnett) held recently in Hamilton, New Jersey. There I presented my work on a forgotten civilization at the end of the last Ice Age some 12,000 years ago but I did not speak explicitly about UFOs. I find the subject of UFOs fascinating. I have been interviewed a number of times for the television series "Ancient Aliens," the primary thesis of which is that extraterrestrial beings visited our planet in distant times and kick-started or seeded civilization with their advanced technologies and superior knowledge. However, I have been explicit in stating that I am not a UFO advocate. Personally I am not averse to the concept that Earth may have been, and perhaps still is, the destination of alien beings from other worlds. However, based on the evidence I have seen thus far—and I have been looking at the evidence sporadically for decades—am not yet one hundred percent convinced that UFOs and their occupants are of an extraterrestrial nature.

Although I read a smattering of books on flying saucers in my youth like *Flying Saucers: Serious Business* by Frank Edwards, my first formal introduction to the UFO question was by way of attending a lecture on the topic held at a small college in southeastern Massachusetts. I was a young faculty member at Boston University (where I still teach), and I went away from the lecture convinced of one thing: whatever the reality or non-reality of the UFO phenomenon, at least some elements of the United States government were (and presumably still are) involved in a massive cover-up and disinformation campaign. The more I have learned about ufology, the more this conviction has been reinforced. I found myself among many like-minded individuals at the New Jersey MUFON conference.

As Richard M. Dolan discussed in his presentation, and elaborates upon in his book, there appears to be an official U.S. government policy, adopted as well by many other nations, to deny the reality of UFO phenomena and any evidence of extraterrestrials. This is made explicit in a 1960 Brookings

Institute report, commissioned by the U. S. government, which strongly advised that if evidence of advanced extraterrestrial life should ever be discovered, whether in the form of artifacts on the Moon or Mars, or an alien spaceship seen from or on Earth, that such information should be withheld from the public lest mass panic break out and society as we know it should collapse. But such an official policy of nondisclosure appears to predate 1960, going back to at least the late 1940s.

It was in the late 1940s, just after World War II, that the modern era of UFOs really took off. During the war, military pilots had reported observing strange aerial phenomena referred to as "foo fighters." In 1946-1947 "ghost rockets" were reported over Europe and America, and in 1947 the term "flying saucer" (or "flying disc") was coined as a general term for strange aircraft seen in the skies (the term UFO was introduced by the U.S. Air Force in 1952).

In early July 1947 an alleged flying saucer crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. Was this really an alien spacecraft containing alien bodies, as both witnesses and authorities initially confirmed? Or was it something more mundane, such as a weather balloon or secret surveillance balloon, as the U.S. Air Force later stated? Was the story of a balloon a blatant lie to conceal the truth that definitive physical proof of extraterrestrials was now in the possession of the government?

Harry S. Truman was the president of the United States in 1947, and it was in 1947 that the U.S. National Security Act was signed into law creating, among other things, the National Security Council, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the Department of Defense (initially called the National Military Establishment). In 1947 the world was recovering from the most horrendous war in history, global tensions on all levels were high, and the last thing that government and military leaders appear to have wished for was the potential mass panic that public confirmation of the reality of ETs might cause. Furthermore, if the U.S. government now had in its possession an advanced alien spacecraft, then there would be the potential to reverse engineer the alien technology and use it to military and commercial advantage. So, many ufologists contend, the decision was made by the U.S. government and other nations to keep all genuine information about UFOs and ETs secret (while spreading lies and disinformation on the subject, and discrediting serious independent researchers) —a policy that has lasted up to the present. Furthermore, there was a precedent for such secrecy: the

Manhattan Project, which resulted in the undetected development of the atomic bomb, an astounding technological accomplishment.

Let us assume, as the evidence suggests, that there is an ongoing cover-up. What is being covered up? Could it simply be the latest military and surveillance technologies being developed by governments who have created the UFO phenomenon and the "cover-up" as a distraction? Or is there really something out there, aliens or strange beings, who the governments of the world either know well or, while still not sure of their nature, fear? What is being covered up? Who are they? Who are the ETs? In the context of the UFO conference, I found that this is where my research fit in.

The classic view is that UFOs are from other planets, even other galaxies, and the beings in the UFOs are thus literally ETs in a formal sense. This is often referred to as the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis (ETH). Among the general public it remains the most common explanation for ETs and UFOs, other than the explanation that it can all be explained away by a combination of misidentification, hoaxing, and abnormal psychology (such as hallucinations). ETH generally implies that the alien beings have advanced vehicles and propulsion systems that allow them to traverse vast expanses of space so as to visit our planet. Furthermore, according to some forms of ETH, alien beings have been making occasional visits to Earth for thousands of years; this is the idea behind "Ancient Aliens."

A variation or elaboration on ETH is that some of the ETs may not actually be biological organisms, as least not as we know them. They may be android-type beings, artificially intelligent (AI) machines, such as robots and computers. Some may be clones or "wet machines" created from biological materials, perhaps even from materials (such as DNA and tissue samples) taken from organisms on Earth. This may explain the numerous reports of ETs taking sperm, egg, and tissue samples, as well as the widespread cattle mutilations that are sometimes associated with UFOs and ETs.

I study extremely ancient civilization, sophisticated cultures that date back to a time thousands of years before civilization is supposed to exist according to conventional archaeologists and historians. This forgotten civilization was destroyed during the cataclysms that brought the last ice age to an end, nearly 12,000 years ago, and humanity was thrown into a "dark age", with full civilization reemerging around six to five thousand years ago. How and why did civilization originate? What sparked its reemergence? Here the notion of ancient aliens comes into play. Ancient myths, legends, and sacred texts

around the globe speak of gods, angels, devils, demons, fairies, elves, spirits, and other presumed supernatural beings who often come from, or reside in, the sky or heaven. A long held and widespread view, popularized by such authors as Erich von Daniken and the late Zecharia Sitchin, is that these beings were simply ETs—advanced beings, but certainly not supernatural in any true sense—from other planets whom primitive peoples (our ancestors) mistook for gods, angels, and whatnot. But this hypothesis can also be turned on its head.

What if the beings whom ancient peoples interacted with were not only real, but were indeed gods, angels, and other supernatural, paranormal, or preternatural entities? Might we in our modern hubris, be mistaken in insisting that they were (and are) conventional ETs? Are we too proud to accept the concept that there really might be gods, devils, and other types of unusual beings? One of the presenters at the New Jersey conference, Robert Skiba, struck me as being of this school of thought. As I understand his analyses, Skiba takes the Judeo-Christian Bible as the literal truth and interprets many of the stories therein as the recounting of the deeds of God and heavenly beings, genuine angels, demons, and so forth. Skiba dismisses the idea that these were simply ETs in the sense of von Daniken and his followers. If you accept Skiba's assumptions, he makes a compelling case.

Another possibility that is often suggested is that ETs are from not so much a different region of our space as we know it, but from a different dimension or universe. Perhaps they are here with us all of the time, but in a parallel universe hidden in dimensions other than those we have direct awareness of. Is it possible that these inter-dimensional beings have figured out a way to move into and out of our dimensions? Or might they sometimes inadvertently enter our dimensions and actually be desperately seeking a way to return back to their own universe and reality? Might they find themselves inadvertently stranded in our world?

The notion of traveling through dimensions brings us to another possible explanation for at least some beings that have been identified as ETs. A "dimension" that all of us are familiar with, but understand the least, is time. Could some ETs actually be time-travelers? In particular, could they be from our own planet Earth, could they be humans just like us, but from the future? At the conference Nick Redfern reviewed the Men In Black who are sometimes associated with UFO investigations and apparent alien phenomena —MIB seemingly stalk and threaten some UFO investigators. The classic

MIB wear black suits and fedoras in the fashion of the 1950s. An hypothesis discussed at the conference is that in the future mankind may suffer a tremendous catastrophe that destroys many records of the past, and perhaps only a few photographs or other fragments from the 1950s will survive to represent the twentieth century. Perhaps in the far distant future, long after the catastrophe, technology will rise to a level of sophistication where time travel back into the past is possible. The MIB may be time-travelers from the future wearing clothing they feel will disguise them, but to our eyes is a few decades out of style.

Rather than originating in the future, could some time-travelers actually be from the past? The filmmaker James Carman presented a clip of an interview with such a self-proclaimed time-traveler, the late Alfred Bielek—or did he just travel in time once again? Among other things, Bielek claimed that he had been part of the U.S. Navy Philadelphia Experiment in 1943 when the destroyer escort ship *USS Eldridge* was allegedly made invisible and also possibly teleported from Philadelphia to Norfolk and back. Further, Bielek claimed to have traveled through time, due to alien contacts and technologies, from the 1940s to the twenty-second century to the twenty-eighth century and back to the twentieth century. Most people would not mistake Mr. Bielek for an ET, and he did not claim to be one, but what if there were an advanced civilization on Earth in the distant past that developed a technology capable of time travel into the future? Could such time-travelers from the past be mistaken for ETs?

Maybe we do not need to invoke time-travelers at all, but simply advanced civilizations in the distant past as an explanation for some ETs—this is the belief of certain ufologists, and this is where my research is perhaps most applicable to the issue of extraterrestrials (who may actually be from Earth after all). As stated by Dolan and Zabel in *A.D., After Disclosure* "Among scholars of alternative ancient history, there is a major school of thought contending that there was in fact .... [an advanced and technologically sophisticated] ... civilization, and that it suffered a cataclysm around 12,000 years ago." For a quarter century, beginning with my work re-dating the Great Sphinx of Egypt, I have made the case that civilization goes back to a much more remote period than generally acknowledged. Furthermore, based on the evidence, this early civilization experienced a major catastrophe 12,000 years ago. Could some of the members of this early civilization have survived, but gone into hiding, perhaps with advanced technology which they

have had 12,000 years to refine and develop further? Are they still here with us, somewhere on Earth (perhaps in underground cities in desolate regions, or under the oceans) or perhaps even on a base on the Moon, Mars, or another planet? Are they primarily covert, only occasionally and secretly (for the most part, that is) interacting with our civilization? Or might they be in collusion with governmental authorities? Might they be the truth behind secret societies that trace their pedigrees back to pre-catastrophic times and have been behind the scenes ever since directing societies and civilizations? Are the ETs actually Atlanteans? I do not endorse any of these theories, but I can see how my research can be used to support them —and thus why I was an appropriate presenter within the context of a UFO conference.

It seems that not all ETs are the same, nor do they originate from the same source. Perhaps all of the various theories as to the origin and nature of ETs are applicable, at least to some types of ETs. And perhaps many UFOs and ETs are simply hoaxes or the figments of overactive imaginations. I just do not know.

Based on everything I have been exposed to, all of the evidence I have studied, I am convinced that it is important to treat UFO phenomena seriously. ETs may be stranger, more diverse, and hide more profound secrets that we can imagine. For the scientist, the search should never end.

APPENDIX
AN INTERVIEW WITH JACQUES VALLEE
(1980)

Jacques Vallee is, without doubt, the most famous of contemporary Ufologists. He was one of the first to reject the notion that UFOs were vehicles from others planets. The French scientist Lacombe (played by Francois Truffaut) in the landmark film, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, *was based on, and a tribute to, Vallee. The following interview was conducted by Jerome Clark for* Fate Magazine *at its historic 1977 UFO conference.*

Fate: For most of the past thirty years the scientific establishment has been overwhelmingly hostile to the concept of UFOs. Why?

Jacques Vallee: Well, the answer to that is fairly simple. It has to do with human nature. Scientists are human beings who are vulnerable to the same kinds of ridicule and the same kinds of psychological effects that frighten other people away from involvement in so unconventional a subject.

Also, scientists don't want to waste their time on things that may turn out to be hoaxes. And many UFO reports that gain prominence in the press—and almost all UFO pictures—are hoaxes. Say that someone produces a fraudulent photo which may interest a scientist enough to examine it with the techniques he has at his disposal. He quickly discovers that the "UFO" is nothing more than a small model the photographer tossed into the air. That short but disillusioning experience may be enough to cause the scientist to discount the UFO phenomenon entirely. Then he can say, whenever he's asked about it, "Ah, yes, the UFO business. I looked into it once and it turned out to be a hoax."

Another thing we have to keep in mind is that most UFO reports do have a conventional explanation. There is no question that three-quarters of all the things that are reported as UFOs turn out to be balloons, clouds, planets, birds, or whatever. I don't think there is much disagreement among scientists who have carefully studied files of sightings that 70 to 80 percent of the data is explainable.

Fate: How did you as a scientist become interested in UFOs?

Vallee: I didn't really become interested in UFOs. I became interested in scientific reactions to UFOs.

In 1961 I was working at a major observatory in Europe as a member of a team tracking satellites. Sometimes we tracked things that were not satellites, things that shouldn't have been there. They were UFOs—but not very spectacular ones, certainly not your typical flying saucer with windows and antennas and all that. They were simply forms of light. But the important consideration is that we were looking at those forms of light through astronomical instruments. We were professional astronomers doing our job and we were observing something we could not identify.

One night we got eleven data points on one of these objects. That got us quite excited because we thought we could feed the tape through the computer, compute an orbit for the thing, and try to see it again. Yet the man in charge of the project, a highly respected astronomer, confiscated the tape and erased it. When I asked him why didn't we send this to the Americans—at the time we were part of the global network that was headquartered in the States and we were concentrating all our data there—he explained simply that the Americans would laugh at us.

Fate: Yet we always said that astronomers don't see UFOs.

Vallee: Well, there I was, a professional astronomer, with a whole team of people, and we were seeing something we couldn't identify and we were destroying the data. So it occurred to me that, if we were doing that at our observatory, how many of our colleagues might be doing the same thing all over the world at the same time?

I started making some very discreet inquiries first with astronomers and physicists and then with geologists and biologists, and slowly that got extended into a little network of scientists who were privately interested in the subject. And we started pooling our data.

Fate: Popular and to some extent scientific attitudes about the UFO phenomenon seem to have changed dramatically since the great UFO wave of the fall of 1973, to the extent that society may be entering a pivotal period in its perception of the problem. What do you think will happen now?

Vallee: First, I expect increased government and scientific attention to it. More researchers will be pursuing the physical-evidence aspects, conducting much more sophisticated investigations of traces left at landing sites and so on. The people moving into the field now are good physicists and good engineers who know what they are doing and who are convinced it is time to

get involved.

At the same time I expect that public opinion will change also. Initially it probably will move strongly toward the extraterrestrial explanation. Most people see only two ways to look at the problem—either it's all nonsense or we're being visited from outer space. The current spate of movies, books, and magazine articles is going to push people toward the extraterrestrial hypothesis. After that I expect a backlash effect may push them in the other direction. I don't know where that's going to leave scientists who want to do research.

Fate: You say that scientists are entering ufology in search of physical evidence. But *is* there physical evidence? And if there is, are they going to find it? What happens if they don't?

Vallee: If I were speaking for them, I would say, "Jerry, it's premature to ask those questions." One doesn't know the answers until one really looks—and so far nobody has looked very seriously. So far the people who have looked have been military types searching for enemy craft or direct threats to national security. Or they've been superficial investigators, dedicated civilians with good training but limited time and limited resources.

But you're asking me what I think. I think there are physical data. They are very, very interesting. They may contain a message. My inclination is to look at the message both in a physical sense and in a symbolic sense, but that's because I'm an information scientist and not a physical scientist. I look for the meaning behind the object.

Let me give you an example of what I mean. Recently Paul Cerny investigated a case in northern California in which two older persons saw a UFO take off. Afterward they saw a sort of ring on the ground. Within the ring they found some molten metal and a pile of sand.

Obviously here is physical evidence. Two tangible things—the molten metal, which turned out to be brass, and the sand. I took some of the latter to a geologist friend who knows about sand. He said it was highly unusual because it did not contain quartz and it was not stream sand or beach sand or residue from mining or anything else. It seemed to be artificial sand created from grinding together stones of different origin.

Well, to a physicist that may not mean too much. It's an indication of something that turns out to be absurd.

We can put it alongside other cases of physical traces and then we may start looking for patterns which might lead us to a better understanding of the

modus operandi of whoever's doing all this. In that sense, yes, there is physical evidence. But if you mean physical evidence in the sense that we're going to discover somebody's propulsion system from it, I would have to say I don't expect that to happen.

Fate: Can we infer from the existence of physical evidence, then, that there is a physical cause?

Vallee: If the UFO phenomenon had no physical cause at all, there would be no way for us to perceive it because human beings are physical entities. So it has to make an impression on our senses somehow. For that to take place, it has to be physical at some time.

Fate: So in other words there is such a thing as a solid, three-dimensional flying saucer.

Vallee: No, I don't say that. That may or may not be true. I don't think there is such a thing as *the* flying-saucer phenomenon. I think it has three components and we have to deal with them in different ways.

First, there is a physical object. That may be flying saucer or it may be a projection or it may be something entirely different. All we know about it is that it represents a tremendous quantity of electromagnetic energy in a small volume. I say that based upon the evidence gathered from traces, from electromagnetic and radar detection, and from perturbations of the electromagnetic fields such as Dr. Claude Poher, the French space scientist, has recorded.

Second, there's the phenomenon the witnesses perceive. What they tell us is that they've seen a flying saucer. Now they may have seen that or they may have seen an image of a flying saucer or they may have hallucinated it under the influence of microwave radiation, or any of a number of things may have happened. The fact is that the witnesses were exposed to an event and as a result they experienced a highly complex alteration of perception which caused them to describe the object or objects that figure in their testimony.

Beyond these—the physical phenomenon and the perception phenomenon—we have the third component, the social phenomenon. That's what happens when the reports are submitted to society and enter the cultural arena. That's the part which I find most interesting.

Fate: Before we go into that, let's clarify your views on the nature of the physical aspect. When I asked you if there was such a thing as a solid, three-dimensional flying saucer, I was thinking in these terms:

Let's suppose that somebody says he has seen a UFO, the bottom part of

which was flat and circular. He says he saw the object come down, settle on the soil, and then fly off again, leaving a flat circular impression. Doesn't that clearly suggest the presence—at least for the duration of the sighting—of a solid object whose physical structure was more or less as the witness perceived it?

Vallee: Not necessarily. We have evidence that the phenomenon has the ability to create a distortion of the sense of reality or to substitute artificial sensations for the real ones. Look at some of the more bizarre close-encounter cases—for example the incident from South America in which one man believed he had been abducted by a UFO while his companion thought he had boarded a bus which had suddenly appeared on the road behind them.

It is conceivable that there is one phenomenon which is visual and another which creates the physical traces. What I'm saying is that a strange kind of deception may be involved.

Fate: In other words, the physical traces are placed there as ostensible confirmation of what the senses perceived?

Vallee: Yes. It's comparable perhaps to the strategic deception operations of the British during World War II to fool the Germans. They created artificial tank tracks in the desert and in other ways, simulated the passage of large armored divisions. They even caused dust storms to perpetuate the illusion, which the Germans found very convincing indeed.

In the UFO context that might explain cases such as the one in California I mentioned earlier, in which the "physical evidence" left in the wake of the UFO appearance really seemed to have no clear, unambiguous connection with the perceived "object."

Fate: What do you think happens during the "UFO experience?"

Vallee: We don't know. There is no question that something happens. It seems as if an external force takes control of people. In the close encounters people may lose their ability to move or to speak; in the abduction cases, which are the most extreme example, they gradually enter into a series of experiences during which they lose control of all their senses. Do they experience what they *think* they experience? Suppose you, an outside observer, had been there. What would you have seen?

Fate: I can think of several cases which might suggest I would have seen the same thing they saw. To cite an example, one of the famous Venezuelan humanoid encounters of late 1954 was independently observed by a doctor some distance from the scene.

Vallee: Yes, I'm familiar with that incident and similar ones. But that doesn't alter my point. The doctor may have experienced the object as "real" but we don't know what the nature of that reality is.

We know there are objects that contain a lot of energy in a small space. What do we know about what happens to the human brain when it's exposed to a great deal of energy? We know very little about that. We don't know much about the effects of electromagnetic or microwave radiation on the brain, or about the effects of pulsating colored lights on the brain. The research into that is just beginning.

What we do know is that you can make people hallucinate using either lights or microwave or electromagnetic energy. You can also make them pass out; you can cause them to behave strangely, put them into shock, make them hear voices, or even kill them.

Fate: Is there any way to penetrate to the reality of the experience, for example through hypnotic regression?

Vallee: I'm not sure that what we learn under hypnotic regression is useful. Hypnosis is really a delicate technique, and some of the people in our field who are using it are doing more harm than good. If the hypnotist doesn't have medical training—and most of these people have no medical training—the results may be disastrous for the witness. But if the hypnotist does have medical training and doesn't have any knowledge of the subject, he may ask the wrong questions. I think that may have happened in the famous case of Betty and Barney Hill. The hypnotist was extremely skilled but was not especially interested in UFOs and didn't know the background of the problem.

Fate: What *can* we do, then?

Vallee: I'm not saying that hypnosis has no role to play in UFO investigation, or that it can't be helpful under certain circumstances when percipients are blocking from their memories something they have seen or experienced.

The thing I really want to emphasize is that the investigator's first responsibility is to the witness and not to the UFO phenomenon. The average witness is in shock because he's had a very traumatic experience; what he's seen is going to change his life. Your intervention, the very fact that you're talking with him about it, is also going to have an effect on him. Now he may say to you, "I need help to understand what I saw," but in fact he needs more immediate help as a human being who is deeply troubled by a very disturbing

experience.

Unfortunately this element has been neglected. The more UFO investigators try to appear "professional," the more they ignore that human aspect—and by extension their own ethical obligations. I want to convince my friends in UFO research that whenever we have a choice between obtaining interesting UFO data and taking chances with the life of a human being, we should forget the UFO data.

Another thing to keep in mind is that there are alternatives to the use of hypnosis. These involve putting the percipient into a state of relaxed reverie or free association. There are several techniques that are equally as effective as hypnosis in bringing out the hidden details but are much less harmful. Investigators really haven't made use of these yet.

Fate: What do you think of the abduction cases?

Vallee: Again, I'm mainly interested in their symbolic contents.

Let me explain what I mean. We live in a society that is oriented toward technology, so when we see something unusual in the sky we think of it in physical terms. How is it manufactured? What makes it tick? What is its propulsion system? We tend to assume that the physical phenomenon is its most important aspect and that everything else is just a side effect and much less important.

But perhaps we're facing something which is basically *a social* technology. Perhaps the most important effects from the UFO technology are the social ones and not the physical ones. In other words the physical reality may serve only as a kind of triggering device to provide images for the witness to report. These perceptions are manipulated to create certain kinds of social effects.

If that's true, then the abduction cases are quite revealing. I am not concerned with how many switches there were on the control panel or whether the percipient felt hot or cold when he was inside the flying saucer. Those questions may be totally irrelevant because maybe that person never actually went inside the object.

But the report is extremely important for its *symbolic* content. It can help us understand what kinds of images are coming through. One might illustrate the difference in this way:

An engineer observing a computer would want to look at the back and open up the boxes. He would want to take a probe and examine the different parts of the computer. But there is another way of looking at it: the way of the

programmer, who wants to sit in front of the computer and analyze what it does, not how it does it. That's my approach. I want to ask it questions and see what answers I get. I want to interact with it as an information entity.

In the case of the abductions I think we're dealing with the information aspect. I came to that conclusion because in abduction cases, in close-encounter cases in general, what the witness is saying is absurd.

Fate: What do you mean?

Vallee: I don't mean simply to imply that the account is silly. I mean it has absurdity as a semantic construction. If you're trying to express something which is beyond the comprehension of a subject, you have to do it through statements that appear contradictory or seem absurd. For example, in Zen Buddhism the seeker must deal with such concepts as "the sound of one hand clapping"—an apparently preposterous notion which is designed to break down ordinary ways of thinking. The occurrences of similarly "absurd" messages in UFO cases brought me to the idea that maybe we're dealing with a sort of control system that is subtly manipulating human consciousness.

Fate: But how do you prove that one is operating in a UFO context?

Vallee: I've always been unhappy with the argument between those who believe UFOs are nonsense and those who believe they are extraterrestrial visitors. I don't think I belong in either camp. I've tried to place myself between those two extremes because there's no proof that either proposition is correct. I've come up with the control system concept because it is an idea which can be tested. In that sense it's much closer to a scientific hypothesis than the others. It may turn out that there is a control system which is operated by extraterrestrials. But that's only one possibility.

There are different kinds of control systems—open ones and closed ones—and there are tests you can apply to them to find out what kind of control system you're inside. That leads to a number of experiments you can do with the UFO phenomenon, whereas the other interpretations don't lead you to anything. If you're convinced that UFOs are extraterrestrial, then about the only thing you can do is to climb to a hilltop with a flashlight and send a message in Morse code. People have tried that, I know, but it doesn't seem to work very well!

The control-system concept can be tested by a small group of people—you don't need a large organization or a lot of equipment—and you can start thinking about active intervention in the phenomenon.

Fate: How could I prove to my satisfaction that there is a control system

in operation?

Vallee: If you think you're inside a control system, the first thing you have to look for is what is being controlled and try to change it to see what happens. My friend Bill Powers proposes the following analogy:

Suppose you're walking through the desert and you see a stone that looks as though it were painted white. A thousand yards later you see another stone of similar appearance. You stop and consider the matter. Either you can forget it or—if you're like me—you can pick up the stone and move it a few feet. If suddenly a bearded character steps out from behind a rock and demands to know why you moved his marker, then you know you've found a control system.

My point is that you can't be sure until you do something. Then you realize that what you were seeing, the thing that looked absurd and incongruous, was really a marker for a boundary that was invisible to everybody else until you discovered it because you looked for a pattern. I think that's exactly what we have to do with UFOs. We have to do something that will cause them to react. And I don't mean building landing strips in the desert and waiting out there to welcome the Space Brothers.

Fate: But what *do* you mean?

Vallee: I hesitate to be too specific. I'm speaking, as I'm sure you understand, of the attempted manipulation of UFO manifestations. It's a pretty tall order. We're assuming that there is a feedback mechanism involved in the operation of the control system; if you change the information that's carried back to that system, you might be able to infiltrate it through its own feedback.

Fate: How does one go about investigating UFOs, taking into consideration the possible existence of a control system?

Vallee: You should work outside any organized UFO group. Also you must be very careful about the types of instruments you use for your analysis. For example, I have become increasingly skeptical of the use of computers in UFO research. We're losing a great many data because of a certain situation that is developing: The field researcher will spend a lot of time and money investigating a case.

Typically he will write it up in an excellent ten-to-twenty page report; then he'll send it to his superiors in the organization, assuming that they are going to put it on the computer and that in this way it's going to add to some great body of knowledge.

But it doesn't. Investigators should understand that their reports go absolutely nowhere. They end up in a drawer somewhere, they are never published, and they're quickly forgotten. All that's left in the computer is a bunch of codes and letters and numbers on magnetic tape somewhere and that's the end of that.

For another thing you don't want to go around chasing every UFO that's reported. If a sighting gets a lot of publicity, you should stay the hell away from it. Instead you should go after cases that you select yourself, ones that have received very little publicity and that you've heard about through personal channels. There are plenty of those, and they are surprisingly rich in content. You should take your time investigating them. Get involved with the people as human beings. And then you have to become part of the scene, getting as close as you can to what's happening, especially if it continues to happen.

Fate: Are you suggesting that the investigator should attempt to experience the phenomenon himself?

Vallee: Yes, I think that's sound scientific practice.

Fate: But isn't that rather dangerous—in the sense that there's a real risk the investigator, even if he is emotionally stable and intellectually sophisticated, might be overwhelmed by the experiences involved?

Vallee: Yes, there are dangers. Witness what happened to Morris Jessup or to Jim McDonald. But now, I think, we're more aware of what the dangers are. Once you realize the phenomenon may be deliberately misleading, then you can use certain safeguards. I'm not saying that safeguards are always going to work. There is an element of danger you really can't avoid. There's no way to do that kind of study just by reading books.

It's a little bit like the study of volcanoes. You can learn a lot about them by watching them from a distance but you certainly learn a lot more when you can be right there—even if it's somewhat risky.